

Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan



Proposed Master Plan and Environmental Analysis



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Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

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GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Acquisition authority: The Legislature authorized the department to acquire and manage land for a variety of conservation and recreation purposes including state forests, parks, wildlife areas, fishery areas, recreation areas, trails, and natural areas (§23.09(2)(d), Wis. Stats.). In addition, the department is authorized to acquire and manage lands and facilities such as forest nurseries, experimental stations, fish hatcheries, and game farms, to support conservation and recreation properties. The Natural Resources Board approves the establishment of department properties for conservation and recreation purposes, which includes a formal name, a designation, an acreage goal and a project boundary (see below) – together these form the acquisition authority. . -approved name or authority (typically the name of a property) under which the department can acquire land.

Acreage goal: The number of acres the department is approved to acquire within a given project boundary.

Administrative Code: The set of rules promulgated by state agencies to interpret and enforce laws (statutes) passed by the Legislature. Rules promulgated by DNR are given the prefix ‘NR’ for ‘natural resource rule’.

All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV): As defined in §340.01(2g) Wis. Stats, a commercially designed and manufactured motor-driven device that has a weight, without fluids, of 900 pounds or less, has a width of 50 inches or less, is equipped with a seat designed to be straddled by the operator and travels on three or more low-pressure or non-pneumatic tires.

Amendment: See ‘Master Plan Amendment’.

Best Management Practice (BMP): An action, or combination of actions, that is determined to be an effective and practicable means of achieving a management objective.

Deed Acres: Acreage derived from DNR Land Record System based off the acquisition deed and described in the legal description. The acres described in a deed often differ by a small amount from the acres calculated using Geographic Information System (GIS) software. See “GIS acres” below.

Ecological Landscapes: Sixteen areas of Wisconsin with different ecological attributes and management opportunities that can be used to identify the best areas of the state to manage for different natural communities, habitats, aquatic features, and native plants and animals from an ecosystem management perspective. The boundaries are substantially based on the National Hierarchical Framework of Ecological Units developed by the U.S. Forest Service, with some subsections combined to produce a manageable number of units.

Ecosystem management: A system of planning, protecting, managing, and restoring ecosystem composition, structure, and function to ensure sustainability across a range of spatial and temporal scales and to provide desired ecological, economic, and social conditions and benefits.

Forest certification: Independent, third-party certification programs that verify that forest management meets strict standards for ecological, social, and economic sustainability. DNR lands are dual certified under Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) standards.

GIS acres: Acreage calculated from DNR spatial datasets using a Geographic Information System (GIS). When applied to DNR Managed Lands, there will usually be slight differences between GIS acres and deed acres due to different methods of collecting and recording parcel geometry.

Habitat classification: Generalizations of cover types from the Wisconsin Field Inventory & Reporting System (WisFIRS) used for property planning.

Handbook: A DNR guidance document that contains procedures, standards, instructions, and techniques on a specific, focused topic.



Land management classifications: Classifications authorized and described in ch. NR 44, Wis. Admin. Code and are applied to a property or management area within a property to describe the general management objective for that area as determined during the master planning process. Land management classifications generally frame the types of land management and public use activities that will be pursued in each management area.

Manual Code: A DNR policy/procedure document. Manual Codes are established to communicate specific procedures that employees need to follow to comply with department policies or Administrative Codes.

Master Plan: A document that describes the authorized resource management, recreation management, and facility development that may take place on a DNR property. Master plans for DNR properties are developed according to the guidelines set forth in Chapter NR 44, Wis. Admin. Code and require approval by the Natural Resources Board. At heart, master plans are “instruction manuals” that describe the property’s vision, goals and objectives, the recreational uses and habitats that will be provided, and the management strategies and techniques that will be used.

Master Plan modifications: In some situations, conditions or opportunities change at properties that result in a need to modify master plans. Chapter NR 44, Wis. Admin. Code provides three methods to change master plans:

Master Plan Revision: A master plan revision process is pursued when there is a need to potentially change property-level goals or objectives. This degree of change nearly always leads to changes in the management purposes and objectives for much of or the entire property. Revisions must be approved by the Natural Resources Board.

Master Plan Amendment: An amendment process is used when proposed modifications include a change to the management objectives for one or a few management areas on a property, but not a change to the overall property’s goals or objectives. In these cases, there is usually a need to change one or more of the “land management classifications” assigned to management areas.

Amendments must be approved by the Natural Resources Board.

Master Plan Variance: A change in management activity or use described in a master plan that is consistent with the area’s land management classification and does not constitute a change in an objective for management or public use of the area as specified in the plan. That is, variances are used when the department seeks to achieve the objectives for a management area in a different or additional way. Examples could include using new habitat management techniques or adding a recreational use to an area. Variances do not entail a change to a property’s land management classifications nor its goals and objectives. A variance may be approved by the DNR Secretary or a Division Administrator.

Natural Community: An assemblage of different plant and animal species living together in a particular area, at a particular time, in a particular habitat, interacting with one another and with the abiotic environment around them, and subject to primarily natural disturbance regimes. Assemblages that are repeated across a landscape in an observable pattern constitute a community type. No two assemblages are exactly alike.

Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI): A methodology and database for collecting, characterizing, storing, and managing data on rare species, natural communities, and natural features throughout the state. Wisconsin’s NHI program is housed in DNR’s Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation.

Natural Resources Board (NRB): The 7-member citizen board that sets policy for the department and exercises authority and responsibility in accordance with governing state laws. The NRB approves all master plans as well as plan revisions and amendments.



NR 44: Chapter in the Wisconsin Administrative Code that authorizes, establishes, and describes the process for developing master plans for DNR properties.

Primary Site: Ecologically important site identified on a department property through a biotic inventory or assessment. Primary Sites are delineated because they encompass the best examples of: rare and representative natural communities; documented occurrences of rare species populations; and/or opportunities for ecological restoration or connections. These sites warrant high protection and/or restoration consideration during the development of property master plans.

Project boundary: Spatial representation of an area (e.g., a property) within which the department has authority to acquire land. A project boundary represents an area of acquisition authority.

Recreation Opportunities Analysis (ROA): A department study of existing outdoor-based recreation opportunities and future recreation needs around the state. The study identifies future needs for providing high-quality recreation experiences and the role of DNR properties in helping meet those needs. The final report can be viewed on the DNR website at: dnr.wi.gov, keyword: ROA.

Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN): Wildlife species (including invertebrates, birds, fish, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians) in Wisconsin that are in need of conservation action because they: are already listed as threatened or endangered; are at risk due to threats to their life history needs or habitats; are rare due to declining populations, abundance, and/or distribution; show declining trends in their habitats and populations. SGCN are identified in Wisconsin's Wildlife Action Plan.

Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP): A report that periodically evaluates status, trends, demand, and needs for outdoor recreation throughout the state. The SCORP is a primary source of information on outdoor recreation in Wisconsin.

Statutory property designation: The official designation of a property (e.g., State Park, State Wildlife Area, State Forest, State Natural Area, etc.), authorized and defined in Wisconsin Statutes and Administrative Code, that describes what the primary purpose of the property is and, therefore, frames the general scope of land management and public use that can take place there.

Tension Zone: An area of transition between two distinct ecological zones. There is a pronounced tension zone in Wisconsin that runs from northwestern to southeastern Wisconsin, separating the northern forest (including the boreal element) from the southern forest and prairies. Many species reach the limits of their ranges in this zone.

Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTV): A motor driven device, sometimes referred to as a "side-by-side" designed to be used primarily off-highway that has a net weight of less than 2,000 pounds, four or more low-pressure or non-pneumatic tires. Additionally, the vehicle must have a steering wheel, a tail light, a brake light, two headlights, a width of not more than 65 inches, and a roll bar or similar device designed to reduce the likelihood of injuries as the result of a rollover, all as originally manufactured in accordance with §23.33(1)(ng) Wis. Stats. Golf carts, low-speed vehicles, dune buggies, mini-trucks, homemade, tracked, or modified vehicles are not utility terrain vehicle.

Variance: See 'Master Plan Variance'.

Wildlife Action Plan (WAP): The comprehensive plan for the conservation of rare and declining species and their habitats in the state. The Wisconsin WAP identifies Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) and lays out a strategy to conserve and sustain them and their habitats for future generations.

Wisconsin Environmental Policy Act (WEPA): A state law designed to encourage informed decision-making by state agencies. WEPA requires state agencies to consider the effects of their policies, plans, programs, and actions on the



quality of the human environment. WEPA created Chapter 1.11, Wisconsin Statutes. DNR's WEPA responsibilities are further described in Chapter NR 150, Wisconsin Administrative Code.

Wisconsin Field Inventory and Reporting System (WisFIRS): A database and web-based application used by DNR staff to store habitat data collected in the field, and to plan for and track vegetation management practices.



COMMONLY USED ACRONYMS

ATV	All-terrain vehicle
BMP	Best Management Practices
CTH	County Highway
DNR	Department of Natural Resources
EL	Ecological Landscape
NHI	Natural Heritage Inventory
NHC	Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation
NR 44	Chapter NR 44, Wisconsin Administrative Code, Master Planning for Department Properties
NRB	Natural Resources Board
OHM	Off-highway motorcycle
PILT	Payment in lieu of taxes
SCORP	Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
SGCN	Species of Greatest Conservation Need
SNA	State Natural Area
STH	State Highway
UTV	Utility task vehicle
WisFIRS	Wisconsin Field Inventory and Reporting System
ROA	Recreation Opportunity Analysis



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Chapter 1 : Overview of Plan and Properties

PURPOSE AND MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

The purpose of this master plan is to guide management of department properties in the Northwest Sands region of Wisconsin. A master plan establishes the levels and types of public uses that are permitted on a property as well as the authorized resource management and facility development that will take place. All DNR properties are required to have a master plan (NR 1.60, Wisconsin Administrative Code). Master plans are developed according to guidelines set forth in Wisconsin Administrative Code Chapter NR 44. The formation of master plans benefits the public and the department by clearly defining management of the public resource and ensuring management follows a defined track, regardless of staff changes. As a result of this plan, the DNR properties in the Northwest Sands region will continue to provide high-quality natural resources, recreational experiences and sustainable timber resources for present and future generations.

This regional plan builds upon the substantial foundation laid by previous master plans, wildlife and fisheries program guidance and biotic inventories conducted over the last several decades. The planning process considers comments received during public meetings and public comment periods, including involvement of partner agencies and interest from local officials.

THE REGION: NORTHWEST SANDS ECOLOGICAL LANDSCAPE

The Northwest Sands Ecological Landscape includes portions of Burnett, Washburn, Sawyer, Bayfield and Douglas counties. Descriptions of natural resources, socio-economic characteristics and recreational resources for this region are provided in extensive detail in Chapter 17 of the Ecological Landscapes of Wisconsin (WDNR, 2015a). All chapters of this reference book are accessible on the Wisconsin DNR website (dnr.wi.gov) keywords “Ecological Landscapes” then “Northwest Sands”. A summary of the natural resources, socio-economic characteristics, and recreational resource opportunities of the Northwest Sands is provided in Chapter 3 of this document.

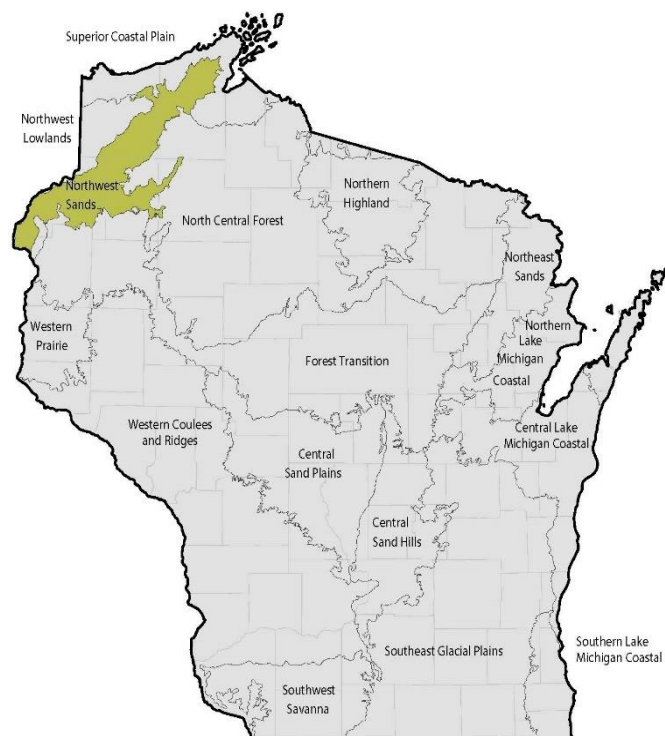


Figure 1.1. The 16 Ecological Landscapes of Wisconsin, with the Northwest Sands Ecological Landscape highlighted.

ECOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE NORTHWEST SANDS

Wisconsin's Northwest Sands region has the most significant opportunity in North America to preserve, restore, and manage large scale oak/pine barrens communities. This fire-adapted savanna system typically occurs on sandy, glacial outwash soil, dominated by grasses, low-growing shrubs and trees, and scattered large trees. Spring ponds and coldwater streams occur across the landscape. The oak/pine barrens community extends from northern Polk County to southern Bayfield County and covers 1,900 square miles. It represents a rare, geographically restricted and globally imperiled habitat, with great species diversity, the importance of which cannot be overstated. In North America, Pine Barrens exist primarily in the upper Midwest, especially in Wisconsin, Michigan, and Minnesota. Pine Barrens in the northeastern United States are also globally rare but have a different assemblage of species and completely lack the prairie flower and grass component present in Wisconsin barrens communities (WDNR, 2015a).

LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- **Pine-Oak Barrens**
- **Dry Forests**
(jack pine, red pine, scrub oak)
- **Wetlands**
(forested, sedge meadow, marsh)
- **Inland Lakes**
(seepage lakes, drainage lakes, spring ponds, flowages)
- **River Corridors**
(Bois Brule, St. Croix National Scenic Riverway, Namekagon, Totogatic Wild River)

During the middle 1800's, European settlers began draining wetlands and logging, which eventually led to large-scale commercial drainage, fire control, and major disappearance of waterfowl, cranes and other species dependent on the unique habitats of the region. By 1912, the Crex Carpet Company became the major landowner (23,000 acres) in the region. They harvested sedge grass for the carpet and furniture industry, until bankruptcy caused by market changes and the Great Depression. By the 1940's nearly two thirds of the land in the region was tax delinquent. Federal financing helped the state purchase tax delinquent lands to restore original wetlands and uplands as public wildlife areas. Some tax delinquent lands were given to the respective counties in a cooperative state-county program; thus beginning of Wisconsin's county forest system.

Magnificent vistas occur in this region, inside a mosaic of wetlands types (forested, shrub, and open), oak/pine barrens and great rivers (Brule, St. Croix and Namekagon). A vast glacial lake, Glacial Lake Grantsburg, formed when the last advance of the Wisconsin glacier blocked the St. Croix River. After the ice dam melted, a series of shallow lakes and extensive marshes remained creating the largest sedge marshes in the upper Midwest. Today, these marshes provide critical open habitat for area-sensitive species. An impressive diversity of rare birds is now present due to the abundance of large, high-quality wetland habitats for which many of the region's properties are managed. Connection to open upland grasslands and barrens makes this one of the premiere open landscapes in the entire state for birds.

The Northwest Sands Ecological Landscape is also known as Fire Landscape 15, one of the highest forest fire risk landscapes in Wisconsin. Tight canopies of pine stands contribute to the potential for long fire runs through the crowns of the trees. Generally, this consists of continuous pine stands. Many properties in this master plan, featuring wetlands and fire-managed barrens and forests, serve as fuel breaks in the landscape. A regional partnership of governmental entities and private landowners exists to create 'rolling' or transitional barrens and pine stands around permanent barrens cores. The open areas of the lands in the partnership provide fire control personnel beneficial fuel breaks or an opportunity to slow or stop a forest fire. The barrens and rolling barrens landscape provides additional benefits by offering patches of fuel breaks that support prescribed burning which also maintains their ecological diversity.



RECREATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE NORTHWEST SANDS

The Northwest Sands properties feature resources that attract visitors from both Wisconsin across the United States especially from the Minneapolis - Saint Paul metropolitan area. The region contains diverse outdoor recreation opportunities provided by state, county, and federal lands. While this region's population density is low, its recreational opportunities support abundant visitors. Popular self-guided auto tours (e.g. Crex Meadows and Namekagon Barrens wildlife areas) provide opportunities to observe multiple land management techniques and numerous watchable wildlife opportunities. Several of the Northwest Sands properties are known to be among the best dog trialing locations in the country, occurring as far back as 1925.

Fishing is a popular activity in the Northwest Sands as the array of water types, from flowages and natural lakes to small cold-water streams and large rivers, allows for all types of fishing in the NWS. Designated wild rivers such as the Totogatic River are uncommon and were established specifically to provide the people of the state an opportunity to enjoy natural streams, to preserve some rivers in a free-flowing condition, protect them from development, and to attract out-of-state visitors and assure the well-being of the tourist industry. The Great Northwest ROA (WDNR 2018) recognizes that fishing from a boat and shore are among the most popular activities for the region. Fishing is a major draw for people visiting the region as non-resident fishing licenses outpace any other fishing or hunting license type in the counties of the Northwest Sands. The department offers access through improved boat launches on many of its properties, and shore fishing is allowed on all department lands. State fishery areas, many of which are included in this plan, protect the headwaters of streams and critical spawning habitat for fish and are all open to shore fishing.

Sharp-tailed grouse viewing blinds are tourist destinations, drawing people from around the United States, and offering approximately 200 viewing days every spring. These properties are some of the few places in Wisconsin that occasionally offer sharp-tailed grouse hunting. Although sharp-tailed grouse populations occur only in a few isolated areas of the state and they are well below historic levels; sharp-tailed grouse are being managed to provide hunting opportunities through intensive land management activities, bolstered by a partnership approach with regional land managers.

Public viewing of sharp-tailed grouse dancing during their spring courtship is a popular activity among the public, accommodated by a reservation system supported by Friends' groups. Friends' groups and Wisconsin Sharp-tailed Grouse Society bought three new viewing blinds in 2013 to aid in viewing and surveying the population of these birds every spring. The Friends of Namekagon Barrens Wildlife Area, Friends of The Bird Sanctuary and Wisconsin Sharp-tailed Grouse Society provide significant support and contributions for public awareness, education, and hands-on opportunities for recreation, conservation and enjoyment of the properties. There are endless opportunities for expanding these types of property uses.

Bicycling in the Northwest Sands is a diverse activity that encompasses road cycling, mountain/fat tire biking, and off-road trail riding. Bicycling opportunities on and off department properties exist throughout the region. All roads, except major highways, are open to bicycling and road cyclists readily take advantage of this opportunity. Bicycling opportunities exist within or adjacent to numerous DNR properties. Over 300 miles of biking trail network exists adjacent to the NWS, in the Chequamegon Area Mountain Biking Association (CAMBA) trail system.

Funds primarily from sales of Wisconsin hunting and trapping licenses, from the federal Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration program (Pittman Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act), and donations from Partnerships contribute to the purchase and management of the NWS properties.



TRIBAL RESOURCES ON CEDED TERRITORY

The Northwest Sands properties lie within the Ceded Territory of the state. The St. Croix tribe is within the Northwest Sands ecological landscape.

Native American tribes are independent, sovereign nations, as they were prior to the arrival of Europeans in North America. The Ojibwa Tribes ceded lands in the northern one-third of Wisconsin to the United States government in the Treaties of 1837 and 1842. In those Treaties, they reserved their rights to hunt, trap, fish and gather within various publicly-owned lands. Treaty rights are currently being exercised and implemented by the Ojibwe Tribes within the Ceded Territory.

INTRODUCTION TO THE PROPERTIES

The Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan contains approximately 136,300 acres of department managed lands. The properties consist of wildlife areas, fishery areas, state natural areas, state forests, state public access sites, state habitat areas and state-owned islands. Properties with boundaries in more than one ecological landscape planning region are generally assigned to the planning region for which most of their acreage resides. Although a large portion of Brule River State Forest occurs within the Superior Coastal Plain region, the majority of its acreage is in the Northwest Sands region. Therefore, it is included here in the Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan. Both Beaver Brook Wildlife Area and Clam River Fishery Area are exceptions. They are included in this Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan to accommodate planning efficiencies, despite a majority of their acreage being in the Forest Transition Ecological Landscape. Appropriate management strategies are applied for their existing habitat and biotic inventory considerations.

An overview of the Northwest Sands properties is provided in Table 1.1. For an exhaustive list of properties in this regional master plan, please see Appendix A. Many of the properties in the Northwest Sands region have previously approved NR 44-compliant master plans. These properties account for a majority of DNR-owned acreage in the region, and also contain some of the best examples of the barrens habitat for which the region is known. Properties with NR 44-compliant plans are denoted in Table 1.1 with an asterisk. The properties and their master plans are

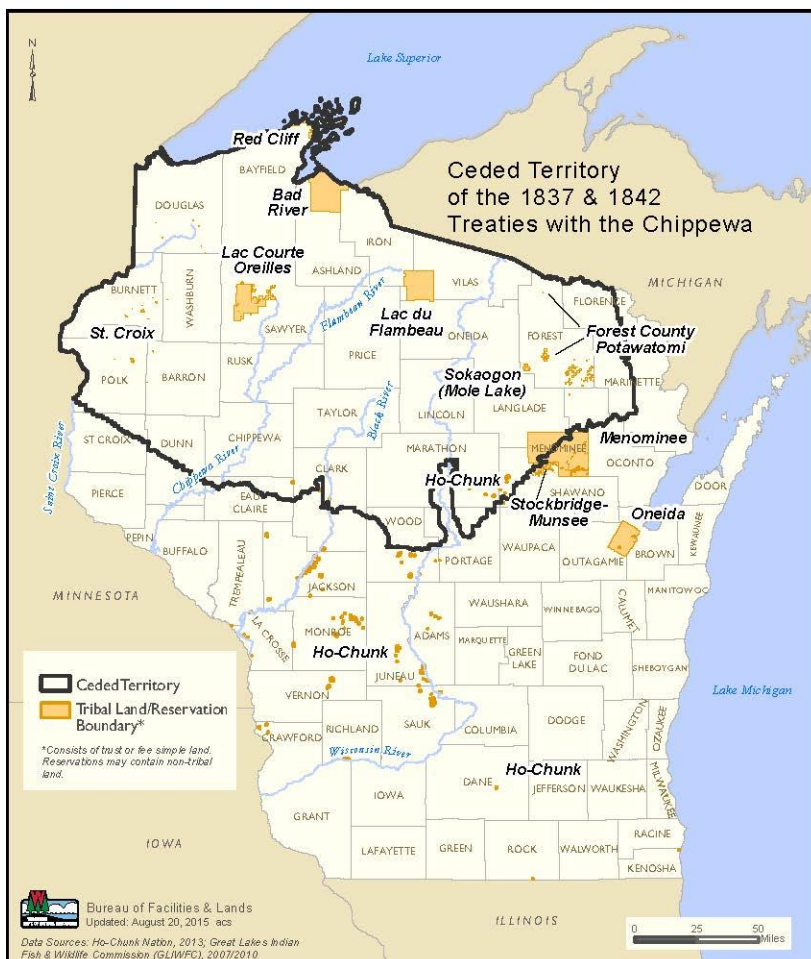


Figure 1.2. Ceded Territory of the 1837 and 1842 Treaties.

incorporated into this regional master plan. Upon approval of this regional plan, all properties noted in Table 1.1 and Appendix A will be unified in one regional master plan.

Table 1.1. Overview of Properties of the Northwest Sands

Property Name	County	Deed Acres
Amsterdam Slough Wildlife Area*	Burnett	5,083
Bean Brook Fishery Area	Washburn	1,633
Beaver Brook Wildlife Area	Washburn	1,947
Brule River State Forest*	Douglas	47,464
Clam Lake Wildlife Area	Burnett	261
Clam River Fishery Area	Burnett	2,571
Crex Meadows Wildlife Area*	Burnett	28,611
Culbertson Springs Fishery Area	Burnett	53
Douglas County Wildlife Area*	Douglas	994
Fish Lake Wildlife Area*	Burnett	13,443
Flat Creek Wildlife Area	Washburn	373
Goose Lake State Habitat Area	Burnett	134
Governor Knowles State Forest*	Burnett	21,165
Inch Lake State Natural Area	Bayfield	542
Jones Lake State Natural Area	Bayfield	12
Lampson Pines State Natural Area	Washburn	120
McDermott Brook Fishery Area	Sawyer	151
McKenzie Creek Fishery Area	Washburn	147
Namekagon Barrens Wildlife Area*	Burnett	6,424
Spring Creek Fishery Area	Burnett	73

Chapter 1: Overview of Plan and Properties

Property Name	County	Deed Acres
Totogatic Wild River*	Washburn	2,468
Uhrenholdt Memorial Timber Demonstration Forest*	Sawyer	122
Whalen Creek Fishery Area	Washburn	191

*Property with existing NR 44-compliant plan



Chapter 2 : Property Management, Development and Use

NORTHWEST SANDS – VISION FOR THE PROPERTIES

The Northwest Sands properties are vital to the preservation of oak/pine barrens, a rare and globally imperiled natural community, in the Northwest Sands Ecological Landscape. Properties in this landscape also protect important inland water resources, including coldwater streams with robust trout populations. DNR properties in the region provide hunting, fishing, trapping, multiple trail uses, gathering, wildlife watching, camping and educational opportunities along with the chance to enjoy the unique barrens habitat that best supports Wisconsin's only self-sustaining, rare sharp-tailed grouse populations. The abundance and diversity of natural resources, including spectacular waterfowl migration events, dog-trailing, abundant blueberries, and nationally recognized scenic river and fishing corridors attract visitors from afar who appreciate the grand scale of coldwater streams, lakes, oak/pine barrens and wetland communities.

Recreational opportunities on these properties and in this landscape, are supported in part by community, regional and government partnerships that support wildlife and sustainable habitat management for current and future generations.

GOALS

- Provide opportunities for hunting, trapping, fishing, gathering, wildlife viewing, scenic enjoyment, nature study, and trail-based recreational uses that are compatible with the properties' capabilities, and regional habitat and recreation goals.
- Restore, manage and perpetuate the major natural community habitats, especially the vast open wetlands, oak/pine barrens, and lakes and streams in the Northwest Sands Ecological Landscape, using principles of ecosystem management and sustainable forestry.
- Provide habitat for wildlife that are dependent on oak/pine barrens, such as the sharp-tailed grouse, and for wildlife associated with the wetlands and rivers.
- Manage in ways that contribute to the protection and preservation of the groundwater, Outstanding and Exceptional Resource Waters, wetlands, lakes, and the state and national Wild Rivers in this landscape.
- Maintain and enhance ecological connectivity between natural community habitats, and on a landscape scale, promote their sustainability in partnership with nearby town, county, state, federal and tribal land managers.
- Contribute to the local and regional economies through management of sustainable recreational opportunities, and sustainably produced forest products.

PROPERTIES OF THE NORTHWEST SANDS AND THEIR MANAGEMENT

The properties of the Northwest Sands with management described in this document are composed of state wildlife, fishery and habitat areas along with state-owned islands, state public access sites and state spring ponds. Eighty-four properties have new management described in this plan. Nine properties with existing NR 44 plans are incorporated into this plan. These plans will now be on the same update schedule as this region-wide plan. Table 1.1 includes a complete listing of properties in the Northwest Sands.



MAPS

Property maps in this plan are primarily housed in the online DNR Property Planning Viewer. Links to the five different map types (DNR and Other Lands, Recreation, Roads, Land Cover and Land Management Classification) can be found in Table A.1 and in many of the property sections. To access mapping data for properties without using the links in Table A.1 or the property section of this plan, follow these three steps:

1. Open the Property Planning Viewer

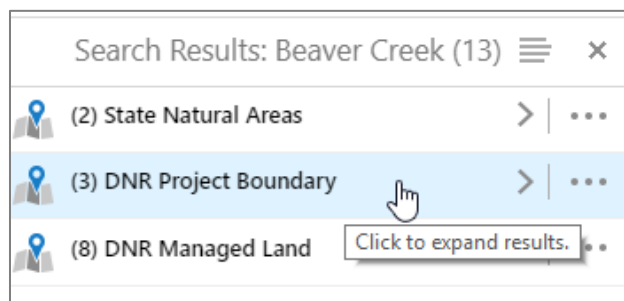
Visit the [Property Planning Viewer home page](#) and click the  button.

2. Locate the property you want to view

Enter the name of the property in the Search bar in the upper right corner of the viewer. Correct spelling is necessary, but entering the entire name is not.

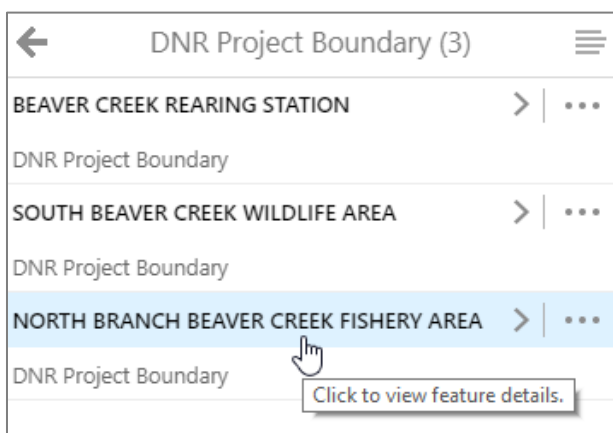


Matching records appear in the Search Results pane. In this example, a search for “Beaver Creek” returns two State Natural Areas, three DNR Project Boundaries, and eight features for DNR Managed Lands.



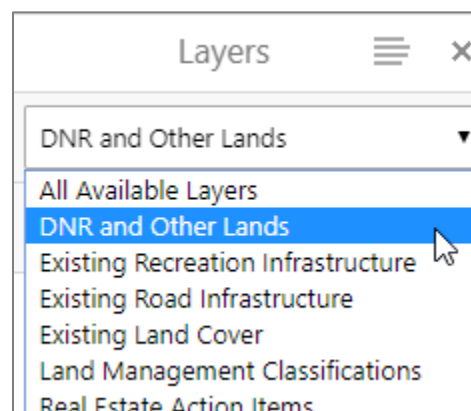
Click on the type of feature you want. In most cases, this will be DNR Project Boundary.

Finally, click the name of the property you want to view, and the map will automatically zoom to that property.

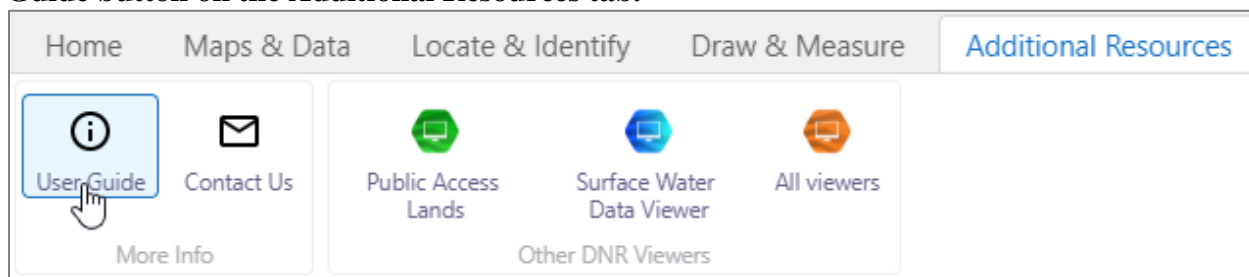


3. Choose a map theme

The default map theme is DNR and Other Lands. To view a different map theme, select it from the Layers drop down menu.



To learn more about additional capabilities of the Property Planning Viewer, click the User Guide button on the Additional Resources tab.



Properties in this plan with more than one proposed land management classification also have PDF maps available. These are located on the Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan website, under the maps tab. Real Estate Action Items are also located on this website, under the Maps tab.

LAND MANAGEMENT CLASSIFICATIONS

All management areas of department properties must be assigned a land management classification (LMC) per NR 44. The management area's land management classification describes the general management objective for the area. These classifications are determined during the master planning process and help identify the preferred set of actions to achieve short and long-term objectives. Only management activities or techniques identified or referenced in this master plan and compatible with the site's ecological capability may be pursued in these management areas. Land management classifications defined in this plan are mapped beyond DNR managed lands to project boundaries. This ensures parcels purchased within a project boundary after this plan's approval have management objectives assigned. Those properties purchased after this plan's approval and falling outside a land management area will be assigned a land management classification following the process described in NR 44.

DNR properties within the Northwest Sands having new land management classifications assigned in this plan have been assigned the following land management classifications:

Habitat Management Area (HMA) (NR 44.06(5)): The primary objective for HMAs is to provide integrated upland, wetland and/or aquatic habitat management that meets critical life-cycle needs for a variety of plant and animal species. Typically, the emphasis is to provide habitats needed to sustain productive game species populations. Areas that initially do not have desired habitat conditions but have a high potential to be restored may be included under this classification.

Native Community Management Area (NCMA) (NR 44.06(6)): NCMA's are managed to perpetuate pre-settlement plant and animal communities, whether upland, wetland, or aquatic, and protect the biological diversity of the native ecosystems. A native community is a distinct and reoccurring assemblage of indigenous flora and fauna associated with a particular set of physical characteristics. Areas that initially do not have the desired community conditions but have a reasonable potential to be restored may be included in this classification. All traditional recreational uses, such as hunting, fishing, trapping, and nature enjoyment, are allowed on NCMA's unless an area needs to be closed to protect a rare species during breeding season or to protect a very fragile habitat.

Recreation Management Area (RMA) (NR 44.06(8)) with Type 3 and 4 Recreational Use Settings: Lands in this classification are managed to provide and maintain land and water areas, and facilities for outdoor public recreation and education.

Scenic Resources Management Area (SRMA) (NR 44.06(9)): Scenic resources management areas protect, maintain and enhance for long-term public enjoyment lands or waters having unique aesthetic qualities or outstanding scenic beauty and lands where managing for aesthetics is a primary concern due to significant or special public use of the area.

Special Management Area (SMA) (NR 44.06(7)): Lands in this classification are managed to provide and maintain areas or facilities for special uses not included under other land management classifications.

Total acreage of each land management classification newly assigned in this proposed 2018 plan and those assigned in previously completed NR 44-compliant master plans shown in Table 2.1.

Table 2.1. Land Management Classifications and Acres for the Proposed 2018 Updated Properties

Land Management Classification	Total Newly Planned GIS Acres	Total Existing NR 44 Plan Acres
Habitat Management Area	13,724	68,103
Forest Production Area	1,019*	53,024
Native Community Management Area	1,142	54,328
Recreation Management Area – Type 4	221	1,718
Special Management Area	971	411
Scenic Resources Management Area	156	6,976
Wild Resources Management Area	0	613

*Newly planned forest production area is in Governor Knowles State Forest. These acres were either purchased or redesignated after the Governor Knowles State Forest Master Plan was approved.

FOREST CERTIFICATION

The management classifications listed in Table 2.1 reflect that all DNR-managed lands, including state parks, fishery areas, wildlife areas and natural areas have been audited by an independent third party to the Forest Stewardship Council® and Sustainable Forestry Initiative® forest management standards (license codes FSC®C006979 and SFI®-00059) and are recognized as being well managed. These certifications emphasize the state's commitment to responsible management and conservation of its forestlands that support economic activities, protect wildlife habitat, and provide recreational opportunities.

HABITAT CLASSIFICATIONS

A tiered habitat classification system that identifies property land cover is present for most property-specific sections. Smaller properties such as state-owned islands and public access sites may not have this table. Habitat classifications in property section land cover tables give a broad perspective. Fifteen potential classifications provide a general overview. These mask finer details included in ecological community descriptions (E.g. a bog or fen becomes a generic wetland type). Chapter 3 details regional and property-specific natural community descriptions for properties in this plan and based on inventories of plant and animal communities; thereby giving the “ground up” perspective.

Some of the detail lost in the broader habitat classifications is shown as WisFIRS database cover types in each table. The plan lists representative WisFIRS cover types, but potentially not all cover types for a property, to indicate which Common Elements for habitat type (as shown in Table 2.2) might be applicable to a given property. Common Elements apply to all properties, unless otherwise noted. By giving representative WisFIRS types, property managers and the public can better understand which Common Elements are most relevant. On any property, including smaller properties that do not have a habitat classifications table in this plan, property managers may refer to WisFIRS when planning property management to gain a more detailed understanding of the property's land cover.

COMMON MANAGEMENT FOR ALL PROPERTIES

Common Elements Overview

DNR properties, while diverse in the resources they offer, are governed under the same state statutes, administrative codes and processes, and share many standard practices for habitat and property management. Given this, the department has developed a set of Common Elements: procedures commonly used by the department which apply broadly to many situations addressed in master plans. Common Elements apply to all properties, unless otherwise noted in the individual property's management plan.

COMMON ELEMENTS FOR DNR PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Common Elements are grouped into three categories:

Master Planning Process

The Master Planning Process Common Element provides an overview of how the department conducts planning, including phases in the process, variances and amendments, and public involvement.

Components of Master Plans

The Components of Master Plans Common Elements are divided into four major categories: general property management practices, real estate management practices, habitats and their management, and recreation facilities and their management. These describe most of the common DNR practices for managing department lands.

Background and Supporting Information

The Background and Supporting Information Common Elements contain references, definitions, and other supporting information used during the planning process.

All Common Elements are based on existing department codes, policies, handbooks, and common practices. General property management, recreation management, and real estate management practices are similar on all properties, no matter their resources. Habitat management on any given property varies widely given the variety of resource situations that might be present.

Table 2.2 shows the Habitat Management Common Elements applicable to a property when a habitat classification is present. It also shows Common Elements available for general habitat management categories, taxa-specific management, and management practices.

Table 2.2. Habitat Management Common Elements

Habitat Classification	Common Element Documents Available	
Farmland	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Farmland	
Forested Wetland	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Black SpruceBottomland HardwoodsEphemeral PondForested Seep	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Swamp HardwoodsTamarackWhite Cedar
Open Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Coldwater StreamsImpoundments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">LakesWarmwater Streams
Open Wetland-Marsh	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Emergent WetlandMuskeg Open Bog	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Sedge Meadow
Shrub Wetland	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Wetland Shrub Alder	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Wetland Shrub Dogwood
Shrub Savanna	<ul style="list-style-type: none">BarrensOak Savanna	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Upland Shrub
Upland Broad-Leaved Deciduous Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none">AspenNorthern Hardwoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Oak and Oak Dominated Mixed ForestRed MapleWhite Birch
Upland Coniferous Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Balsam Fir White SpruceConifer PlantationJack Pine	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Red PineWhite Pine
Upland Grass	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Prairie	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Surrogate Grasslands
General Habitat Management		
General Habitat Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">General Fisheries ManagementGeneral Forest Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">General Wildlife Habitat Management
Taxa-Specific Habitat Management		
Taxa-Specific	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Bat HibernaculaHerptile HibernaculaMigratory Bird Stopover	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Mussel HabitatTurtle Nesting Site
Practices		
Terrestrial Habitat Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">ClearcutCoppiceDirect Seeding and PlantingFarming PracticesGrazingGroup SelectionIntermediate TreatmentMowing, Brushing & HayingOverstory Removal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Passive ManagementPatch SelectionPesticide TreatmentsPrescribed FireSeed TreeShelterwoodSingle Tree SelectionSite Preparation
Aquatic Habitat Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Fish PassageInstream PracticesLake Aeration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Streambank PracticesWater Level Manipulation

EXAMPLE USE OF COMMON ELEMENTS

A sample step by step use for Table 2.2, is as follows:

1. The Badger State Wildlife Area land cover table (Table 2.3) shows upland grass is present. Property management for the Badger State Wildlife Area in this plan states Common Elements for Habitats and their Management apply to the property. The property manager references Table 2.2.
2. Table 2.2 shows Prairie and Surrogate Grasslands Common Elements are available for the Upland Grass Habitat Classification. The property manager, using her knowledge of the property and DNR land cover databases, knows surrogate grasslands are present on the property.
3. The property manager then accesses the DNR Property Planning website and views the Surrogate Grassland Common Element. The Surrogate Grassland Common Element describes authorized management for surrogate grasslands.
4. Since the property plan stated Habitats and their Management Common Elements applied to the property, all management considerations and practices described in the Surrogate Grassland Common Element are authorized – unless noted otherwise in the property plan section.
5. The property manager may then implement the management for surrogate grasslands following the Surrogate Grassland Common Element and any applicable property-specific objectives and prescriptions.

The land cover table for any property or management area shows Habitat Classifications. On larger properties, the land cover table may also show representative WisFIRS cover types (as Table 2.3 does). Either can be used for identifying the applicable Common Elements. State-owned Islands, State Public Access sites and other smaller DNR properties may not have land cover tables included in the property section of the plan. If a land cover table is not present in the property section, and the property management described includes Habitats and their Management Common Elements, the property manager should use WisFIRS to determine land cover and applicable Common Elements.

Table 2.2 shows all Common Elements applicable to each Habitat Classification. Only those Common Elements for Habitats and their Management associated with the habitat classifications present on a property are authorized. Returning to the Badger State Wildlife Area example, because the Upland Grass habitat classification is present, and Table 2.2 shows both Prairie and Surrogate Grassland Common Elements, both are authorized for use. As are any Common Elements shown in Table 2.2 as associated with Upland Broad-Leaved Deciduous Forest or Shrub Wetland. However, the Barrens, Oak Savanna and Upland Shrub Common Elements are not, because the Shrub Savanna habitat classification is not present on the property.

Table 2.3. Example Property Land Cover Table

Badger State Wildlife Area			
Habitat Classification	Acres	% Cover	Representative WisFIRS Cover Types
Upland Broad-Leaved Deciduous Forest	100	50	Aspen, Northern Hardwoods
Upland Grass	50	25	Surrogate Grassland
Shrub Wetland	50	25	Alder

ROAD MANAGEMENT AND VEHICLE ACCESS

Access to and within DNR properties is on a variety of roads including state and county highways, town roads and DNR managed roads. Roads managed by other governmental units, including townships, counties and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, are outside the scope of this regional master plan.

These management and public access roads provide access for managing timber, improving fish and wildlife habitat, fighting fires, and recreating among other important activities that take place on department lands. Management roads closed to public vehicles are gated or signed.

Department roads not open to public vehicles are typically maintained as primitive or lightly developed roads. They provide access for management vehicles and equipment, as well as foot-access-ways for hunters and hikers.

On primitive roads, which are often used only seasonally and are not regularly maintained, ruts and downed trees may be present. Maintenance is completed on primitive roads as needed. Public access roads managed by the department generally are constructed and maintained as either lightly developed or moderately developed roads. The property manager may determine which of these road standards to apply on a case by case basis.

The Existing Road Infrastructure theme within the DNR Property Planning Viewer (page 8) shows the current DNR managed road network on each property. Properties that do not show roads have no DNR managed roads inventoried. Roads open to public vehicles and those closed are shown. No change in the open or closed status of the roads shown is proposed in this plan.

The following road management and objectives are applied to properties in the Northwest Sands.

Road Management Objective

- Provide a network of roads and parking lots or areas within the properties that meet land management and recreational access objectives, while minimizing environmental impacts and management costs.

Classifications of DNR managed roads defined

The roads managed by the department fall into four different development level classifications. The classifications reflect a range of development and maintenance standards. Most roads are primitive, lightly or moderately developed.

The road classifications are defined by NR44.07(3) and are as follows:

Primitive road: A primitive road shall be a temporary road, a permanent seasonal road or a permanent all-season road which is primarily a single lane with a maximum sustained cleared width normally not exceeding 12 feet, it has no or little grading, with limited cut and fill, is surfaced with primitive or native materials and has a maximum speed design of 15 mph. Due to the variability of roadbed conditions at different times and places, some primitive roads might not be negotiable by ordinary highway vehicles.

Lightly developed road: A lightly developed road shall be a temporary road, a permanent seasonal road or a permanent all-season road which is primarily a single lane with a maximum sustained cleared width normally not exceeding 16 feet, is lightly to well-graded with minimal cut and fill, is surfaced with primitive, native or aggregate materials except in limited special use situations where asphalt may be used, and has a maximum speed design of 15 mph. Due to the variability of roadbed conditions at different times and places, some lightly developed roads might not be negotiable by ordinary highway vehicles.

Moderately developed road: A moderately developed road shall be a permanent seasonal road or a permanent all-season road which typically is 2-lane, but may be one-lane, have a maximum sustained cleared width normally not exceeding 45 feet for 2-lane and 30 feet for one-lane, a well-graded roadbed and may have moderate cuts and fills and shallow ditching, has a surface of aggregate, asphalt or native material, and a maximum design speed of 25 mph.

Fully developed road. A fully developed road shall be a permanent all-season road with a cleared width normally of 50 feet or more, a roadbed with cuts and fills as needed, an aggregate, asphalt or other paved surface and be designed for speeds exceeding 25 mph.

Management Prescriptions

- Maintain the network of roads shown in the Existing Road Infrastructure theme within the DNR Property Planning Viewer for properties within the Northwest Sands at their designated development level.
- Maintain designated public access roads and parking lots or areas as open for public use as shown in the Existing Road Infrastructure theme of the DNR Property Planning Viewer. Roads shown as open seasonally may be closed based on season (i.e. not maintained in winter) or be open for specific time periods, such as fall hunting seasons. Time periods during which seasonal roads are open or closed are determined by the property manager.
- Maintain permanent roads in a sustainable condition following the standard road management protocols in the Property Access Common Element.
- As public access and department management needs demand, change road development levels and public use status through the master plan variance process set in ch. NR 44.04(4) Wis. Adm. Code.

GENERAL RECREATION MANAGEMENT AND USE

All department-owned lands within the Northwest Sands are open to traditional outdoor recreational uses including hunting, fishing, and trapping, except in refuges as posted. Other activities allowed on these lands include wildlife viewing, photography, hiking, paddling, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, collection of wild edibles, and nature study. Edible fruits and nuts, wild mushrooms, wild asparagus, and watercress may be removed by hand without a permit for personal consumption by the collector. However, collection of seeds, roots, or other plant parts is prohibited. Individual properties may offer additional recreational opportunities such as motorized or nonmotorized trail activities or camping. Details on additional recreational offerings can be found within individual property sections of this plan.

Foot travel (including skiing and snowshoeing) is allowed on all department lands, service roads, dikes, berms, and firebreaks unless otherwise noted. Areas closed to foot travel may include wildlife refuges, closed easements, or areas temporarily restricted during habitat management activities, such as timber cutting or prescribed burns, due to safety concerns.

Motorized vehicle access is available on designated public access roads and parking areas. Snowmobiles and ATVs/UTVs are allowed only on trails and routes designated for their use. Allowances exist for motorized use by individuals with mobility impairments under the power-driven mobility device regulations of the Americans with Disabilities Act. For more information on these allowances, please refer to the 'Disabled Accessibility' paragraphs in the Property Access Common Element. Information on rules governing public use of department-owned lands is found in Chapter NR 45, Wisconsin Administrative Code.

The following management priorities and protocols apply to all properties in this regional master plan. If property-specific management objectives and prescriptions described in this document conflicts with these management priorities and protocols, the property-specific management take precedence.

GENERAL RECREATION AND PUBLIC USE PRIORITIES

- Provide opportunities for high-quality nature-based recreational activities as appropriate to and compatible with property designations and capabilities.



- Provide accessibility for mobility-impaired individuals where feasible and seek to identify opportunities to improve accessibility at existing facilities.

GENERAL RECREATION AND PUBLIC USE PROTOCOLS

- Install, maintain, and monitor parking areas, access roads, boat access sites, and signage consistent with department rules and policies, and as appropriate to the property designation.
- Look for opportunities to enhance accessibility of current facilities and provide new accessible facilities as feasible and appropriate to the property designation.

Additional property-specific public use management prescriptions are included in the individual property sections of this chapter.

BEAVER BROOK WILDLIFE AREA

This property provides the region with a premiere Class I brook and brown trout stream and valuable wildlife habitat, within a setting of high quality wetlands and a mixed forest of native conifers and northern hardwoods; all considered among the highest habitat priorities in northern Wisconsin by the department. It provides a popular hunting, fishing and trapping area for the nearby City of Spooner and its surrounding communities.



PROPERTY OVERVIEW

Beaver Brook Wildlife Area is located less than a mile from the City of Spooner in Washburn County. Beaver Brook flows north through the property to where it empties into the Yellow River. It is one of the premiere Class I brook and brown trout streams in this region, fed by 10 spring ponds and many bank seeps. Other waterbodies on the property include Harrison Lake, situated on the north end of the property, Lutz Lake on the south, and a section of Randall Creek. Numerous wetlands associated with the brook, springs and lakes can be found throughout the property. Red oak stands, aspen, mixed hardwoods, upland and lowland brush, swamp hardwood and conifer, tamarack, pine, old fields and openings comprise additional habitat.

State Ownership:	1,947 acres
Fee Title:	1,945 acres
Easement:	2 acres

Maps

Click the links to access each map type in the online DNR Property Planning Viewer

[DNR & Other Lands](#)

[Recreation](#)

[Roads](#)

[Land Cover](#)

[Land Management Classification](#)

Along with department roads, 7.5 miles of public, non-DNR road offer access throughout the property. Owing in part to its proximity to Spooner, the property is a well-known and popular destination for its primary public use activities of hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking, and cross-country skiing. Additional recreation pursuits, compatible with the property's capabilities, include hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and wildlife viewing. Over six miles of hiking and cross-country ski trails are available on the property. The Wild River State Trail parallels the western boundary of the property; it is used for running, hiking, biking, horseback riding, dog sledding, ATVing, snowmobiling and cross-country skiing.

Special Attributes

State Natural Area: This plan proposes the creation of Beaver Brook State Natural Area within the Beaver Brook Wildlife Area.

Artesian well: On CTH B, along the south end of the property, pull-off roadside parking and a footpath provide access to a popular artesian well. The water is tested quarterly in accordance with department potable water standards.

Department of Transportation wetland mitigation bank: The southern portion of this property fulfills a multi-agency agreement to preserve and protect state wetlands in perpetuity. It provides opportunities for public hunting, fishing and trapping in an area of the highest habitat priorities identified for northern Wisconsin.

Beaver Brook: Beaver Brook is a Class I trout stream and an Outstanding Resource Water.



RECREATION FACILITIES AND ACCESS CONDITIONS

Trails

Beaver Brook Wildlife area contains trails of varying uses and development levels (according to ch. NR 44.07(3)), outlined in Table 2.4. In addition, the Wild Rivers State Trail is adjacent to the property along much of the western edge.

Table 2.4. Beaver Brook Wildlife Area Trails

Trail	Summer Use	Winter Use	Length (Miles)	NR 44 Development Standard
'Connector' Trail between Washburn County Forest and the Wild Rivers Trail	Multiple Uses	ATV/Snowmobile	1 mile	Fully Developed
Cross-Country Ski	Hike	Cross Country Ski	6.5 miles	Moderately Developed

- An east-west 'connector' trail, between the Washburn County Forest trail and the Wild Rivers State Trail, passes through the middle portion of Beaver Brook Wildlife Area. It allows for ATV/UTV use, snowmobiling, bicycling, and hiking to continue from one trail to the other. Maintained by Washburn County, this trail serves only as a connector between two other trails and is not intended to provide motorized access to the wildlife area. (*Note: wildlife areas are generally nonmotorized to prevent conflicts with fish and wildlife management goals. This connector trail existed prior to acquisition of the southern management area, when the County established a new trail system. Without this connector trail, the Washburn County Forest Vehicle Management Plan would be disrupted.*)
- The cross-country ski trail is maintained by the local ski club.

Water Access

One carry-in boat launch exists on the property at Harrison Lake.

Land Use Agreements

- Washburn County Forestry Department has a snowmobile and ATV land use permit from DNR for the connector trail between the Washburn County Forest trails and the Wild Rivers State Trail. The connector trail is closed from March 31 until May 26.
- A local cross-country ski club has a land use permit from the department for use and maintenance of winter cross country ski trails.
- Upon approval of this plan, a local mountain bike club is expected to request a land use permit from the department for occasional, minimal boundary crossings from the right-of-way of the Wild Rivers State Trail, onto Beaver Brook Wildlife Area. Confining the bike trail to the existing state trail corridor will preserve the wildlife area for its primary use management objective of fishing, hunting and trapping.

Roads and Parking Areas

Approximately 7.5 miles of public, non-DNR roads provide access to Beaver Brook Wildlife Area. No DNR roads are maintained year-round for public access; however, 0.4 miles are open on a seasonal basis, and 1.8 miles are open to



DNR vehicles only. Numerous access points exist including: Wildlife Rd off STH 253; Randall Lake Rd off STH 70 in Spooner; Cranberry Rd and Wildlife Rd off STH 253; and from CTH B on the south end.

Other Recreation Facilities

Beaver Brook Wildlife Area contains an accessible hunting area for people with disabilities. Users must obtain a permit from the department.

LAND COVER

Table 2.5 lists the land cover of Beaver Brook Wildlife Area as shown in broad habitat classifications and WisFIRS cover types. The WisFIRS types shown are a representative sample of cover types present, others likely exist on the property. Land cover is not expected to substantially change.

Table 2.5. Beaver Brook Wildlife Area Land Cover

Beaver Brook Wildlife Area			
Habitat Classification	GIS Acres	% Cover	Representative WisFIRS Cover Types
Upland Deciduous	1,238	63	Aspen, Northern Hardwood, Oak
Open Wetland/Marsh	274	14	Sedge, Grasslands, Tag Alder, Willow
Forested Wetland	200	10	White Cedar, Swamp Hardwoods, Tamarack
Shrub Wetland	96	5	Alder
Upland Conifer	84	4	Balsam Fir, Red Pine, White Pine
Open Water	47	<1	Minor Stream, Minor Lake
Upland Grass	14	<1	Remnant Prairie – Dry Mesic
Upland Shrub	8	<1	Upland Shrub
Developed	7	<1	Right of Way

Land cover is largely upland deciduous forest comprised of aspen, northern red oak, and northern hardwoods. A smaller portion of the property is covered by upland conifers, grasses, and shrubs. Old growth natural-origin red and white pine stands are a small, but important conservation component. Pine plantations are no longer planted; they are being converted to native coniferous and upland deciduous forest. A substantial portion of the property consists of open wetlands, marshes, and forested wetlands of tamarack and black spruce. Harrison Lake and Beaver Brook provide the remaining acreage of open water.

Management Areas

Management areas and their classifications (designated per ch. NR 44) are assigned management objectives and prescriptions that are the outcome of a planning process which considers property land cover (forest and natural communities), topography, soils, infrastructure, statutory designation, and compatible recreation opportunities.

MANAGEMENT AREAS AND CLASSIFICATIONS

Beaver Brook Wildlife Area is divided into three land management classifications (Land Management Classifications Map and Table A.1).

- Area 1: Beaver Brook & Forest Habitat Management Area
- Area 2: Beaver Brook & Forest Native Community Management Area
- Area 3: Wetland Mitigation Special Management Area

AREA 1: BEAVER BROOK & FOREST HABITAT MANAGEMENT AREA

Classification: Habitat Management Area

Size: 1,127 acres

Within this management area, Beaver Brook flows north to where it empties into the Yellow River. The brook is a Class I brook and brown trout stream, providing valuable wildlife habitat within a setting of high quality wetlands and a mixed forest of native conifers and northern hardwoods. Beaver Brook is fed by spring ponds and includes many bank seeps. Red oak stands, aspen, mixed hardwoods, upland and lowland brush, swamp hardwood and conifer, tamarack, pine, old fields and openings comprise additional habitat. Land cover in this management area is not anticipated to change.

The management area is bordered on the west by the Wild River State Trail and bordered on the south by the Washburn County “connector” Forest Trail.

Table 2.6. Beaver Brook and Forest Habitat Management Area Land Cover

Habitat Classification	GIS Acres	% Cover
Upland Deciduous Forest	901	80
Forested Wetland	83	7
Open Wetland/Marsh	67	6
Upland Conifer Forest	21	2
Open Water	20	2
Upland Grass	14	1
Shrub Wetland	12	1
Developed	6	<1
Upland Shrub	3	<1

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Apply General Property Management Practices and Recreation Facilities and their Management Common Elements. Apply Habitats and their Management Common Elements. Reference Table 2.5 and Table 2.2 to determine applicable Common Elements. Management described in Common Elements, which conflicts with management described in this document is not applicable.

Objectives

- Protect and enhance Beaver Brook stream ecology and the integrity of its interconnected fish and wildlife habitats of natural communities and diverse composition; provide opportunities primarily for fishing, hunting and trapping.
- Provide high-quality, naturally occurring, mixed-age deciduous forest habitat to support wildlife species, with an emphasis on aspen, oak, and native conifers.
- Provide a forested stream corridor of mixed tree species composition, with old-forest characteristics such as large trees, standing snags and abundant coarse, woody debris.
- Maintain consistency with the fisheries management objectives described in fisheries management plans.



- Considering the management area's objectives and to the degree practicable with the property's capabilities, accommodate compatible recreation and education opportunities.

Prescriptions

- Conduct timber sales and other management techniques that mimic natural events to enhance aspen, oak, other hardwood stands and native conifers, by reserving some mature oaks and pines, and allowing some trees to mature and die within the forests.
- Maintain structural diversity by providing large, fully-developed trees, standing snags and abundant coarse, woody debris.
- Convert existing pine plantations to natural origin aspen, oak, other hardwoods and native conifers, reserving some planted pine trees for diversity.
- Salvage operations due to catastrophic wind, ice, fire, disease or insects may take place or instead, passive management may occur. Prior to salvage, consult an interdisciplinary team from Wildlife, Forestry, and NHC to determine salvage or management, considering the original objectives of the area.
- Remove beaver and dams as necessary to maintain the coldwater stream environment required for robust, self-sustaining trout populations. Beaver are allowed where presence does not negatively affect trout habitat.
- Use appropriate fire suppression techniques to minimize resource damage and threat to nearby residents. If a wildland fire occurs, assess any damages caused by the fire or the suppression activities to determine possible adverse impacts to affected waters and other natural resources. If possible, an effort will be made to restore suppression furrows and other damage.
- Develop no additional recreational features or other infrastructure. Monitor and discourage unauthorized ATV and other motorized use.
- Establish a land use agreement, if requested, with the local mountain bike club to permit a lightly-developed bicycle trail within the Wild River State Trail "corridor" (right-of-way) to encroach parallel and no more than 75 feet into this habitat management area. Encroachment into the wildlife area shall be limited and allowed only in places approved by the Bureau of Wildlife Management. Encroachment will be considered only where terrain within the corridor of the Wild River State Trail is incompatible with bike trail maintenance.

AREA 2: BEAVER BROOK & FOREST NATIVE COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT AREA

Classification: Native Community Management Area

Size: 240 acres

This management area is proposed as Beaver Brook State Natural Area, recognized for the diversity of exemplary natural communities and uncommon species habitat found on this property. The Northern Dry-Mesic Forest and wild lake, along with the associated plant/animal habitats are among the very best in the state.

This management area contains one of the most botanically diverse sites in the Northwest Sands Ecological Landscape. It includes Harrison Lake and three miles of Beaver Brook, a high-quality habitat Class I trout stream, with abundant springs, spring ponds and seeps, along with continuous shading and protection from brushy and forested natural communities along its corridor. Patches of older and old-growth Northern Dry-mesic Forest, including natural origin white and red pine, occur on the site. These provide important habitat values such as abundant downed woody debris, snags, loose tree bark, large tree crowns, and a dense canopy that host a myriad of plant, lichen, bird, mammal and invertebrate species. Older age class natural origin white and red pine stands are unusual and are no longer well-represented within the region. The stream corridor also provides breeding habitat for an uncommon bird found here at its northern range limit and contains a high number of a Special Concern species. Its high species diversity is notable: species found more commonly in the Boreal Forest region to the north often occur here during the nesting season.

This area includes an exceptionally high plant species diversity, with species typical of both northern and southern Wisconsin, mingling in a tightly interwoven assortment of wetland and upland communities. Natural communities include tracts of both upland and lowland forest, extensive areas of Alder Thicket, pockets of Emergent Marsh, scattered spring ponds, and abundant groundwater upwellings in the form of springs, spring runs and forested seeps.

Two small stands of mature natural origin white pine lie along Beaver Brook at the south end of this management area. A rich diversity of forest herbs covers the forest floor below a deeply shaded canopy. These stands tie into a larger matrix of Northern Dry-mesic Forest at varying stages of maturity, with red oak, American basswood and aspen dominating the canopy within and beyond the bounds of the management area. Heading north along the meandering stream corridor, burr oak (a species more typical of southern Wisconsin), along with other lowland forest trees such as black ash, create moderate shade over bubbling seeps and a lush groundlayer of ferns, horsetails and sedges. Abundant speckled alder occupies a one-mile swathe along the stream in the core of this area; brushy wetland is punctuated by scattered Spring Ponds. At the northeast corner lies a forested block with lowland hardwoods along the stream and Northern Dry-mesic Forest in the uplands, including a small area with large (20- to 30-inch diameter), natural-origin red and white pines.

Table 2.7 lists the habitat classifications (land cover) and the approximate acreage of cover for Area 2 (Land Management Classification Map). Land cover is not anticipated to change.

Table 2.7. Beaver Brook Native Community Management Area Land Cover

Habitat Classification	GIS Acres	% Cover
Shrub Wetland	77	30
Forested Wetland	72	28
Upland Conifer Forest	50	19
Upland Deciduous Forest	44	17
Open Wetland/Marsh	17	6
Open Water	1	<1



PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Apply General Property Management Practices and Recreation Facilities and their Management Common Elements. Apply Habitats and their Management Common Elements. Reference Table 2.6 and Table 2.2 to determine applicable Common Elements. Management described in Common Elements, which conflicts with management described in this document is not applicable.

Objectives

- Protect and enhance Beaver Brook stream ecology and the integrity of its interconnected fish and wildlife habitats of natural communities and diverse composition; provide opportunities primarily for fishing, hunting and trapping.
- Maintain the site's high-integrity and rare quality of having no non-native invasive plants. Early Detection-Rapid Response actions are warranted.
- Provide high-quality, naturally occurring, mixed-age deciduous forest habitat to support wildlife species, with an emphasis on aspen, oak, and native conifers.
- Provide a forested stream corridor of mixed tree species composition, with old-forest characteristics such as large trees, standing snags and abundant coarse, woody debris.
- Maintain consistency with the fisheries management objectives described in the fisheries management plans.

Prescriptions

- Conduct timber sales and other management techniques that mimic natural events to enhance oak and natural-origin pine in older age-classes, allowing some trees to mature and die within the forests.
- Maintain structural diversity by providing large, fully-developed trees, standing snags and abundant coarse, woody debris.
- Use periodic timber management and/or passive management to promote old-forest characteristics both along the stream and in the stands of red and white pine. Use extended rotation techniques and allow these stands to age beyond economic maturity.
- Salvage operations due to catastrophic wind, ice, fire, disease or insects may take place or instead, passive management may occur. Prior to salvage, consult an interdisciplinary team from Wildlife, Forestry, and NHC to determine salvage or management, considering the original objectives of the area.
- Remove beaver and dams as necessary to maintain the coldwater stream environment required for robust, self-sustaining trout populations. Beaver are allowed where presence does not negatively affect trout habitat.
- Use appropriate fire suppression techniques to minimize resource damage and threat to nearby residents. If a wildland fire occurs, assess any damages caused by the fire or the suppression activities to determine possible adverse impacts to affected waters and other natural resources. If possible, an effort will be made to restore suppression furrows and other damage.
- Develop no additional recreational features or other infrastructure. Monitor and discourage unauthorized ATV and other motorized use.

AREA 3: WETLAND MITIGATION SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA

Classification: Special Management Area

Size: 547 acres

This management area is a Wisconsin Department of Transportation (DOT) wetland mitigation bank site. It provides permanent protection for wetland functions and types that will off-set the loss of other wetlands from future DOT projects. It provides opportunities for public hunting, fishing and trapping in an area of the highest habitat priorities identified for northern Wisconsin. The management area encompasses the headwaters area of Beaver Brook, where strong upward groundwater discharge occurs, and many scattered wetlands exist. Restoration of Beaver Brook itself and its surrounding wetlands occurred following DNR acquisition of this area; it formerly held commercial cranberry beds. This area includes upland and lowland forest, extensive areas of alder thicket, pockets of emergent marsh, scattered spring ponds, and abundant groundwater upwellings in the form of springs, spring runs and forested seeps.

A connector trail between the Wild Rivers State Trail and Washburn County Forest Trail passes along the north boundary of this management area. It allows for ATV/UTV and snowmobiling use, bicycling, and hiking to continue from one trail to the other and is maintained by Washburn County. The trail serves only as a connector between two trails and is not intended to provide motorized access to the wildlife area.

Table 2.8 lists the habitat classifications (land cover) and the approximate acreage of current and projected cover for Area 3 (Land Management Classification Map). Projected land cover is not anticipated to change.

Table 2.8. Beaver Brook Wetland Mitigation Special Management Area Land Cover

Habitat Classification	GIS Acres	% Cover
Upland Deciduous Forest	245	47
Upland Shrub	189	36
Forested Wetland	38	8
Open Water	25	5
Upland Conifer Forest	13	2
Shrub Wetland	5	1
Open Wetland/Marsh	4	<1

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

If specific management is not described in objectives and prescriptions, follow Common Elements for all properties on the DNR Property Planning website. Common Elements for habitat management do not apply in this management area. If management in this plan conflicts with Common Elements, follow the management described in this document.

Objectives

- Protect and enhance the wetland functions and values in this headwaters area of Beaver Brook.
- Maintain and restore the representative natural communities to enhance the quality and function of the wetlands in this mitigation bank, including emergent marsh, scattered spring ponds, spring runs, forested seeps, and northern mesic forest.

- Maintain the area as a high-quality wetland of the Wisconsin DOT wetland mitigation bank. As such, an Integrated Property Management team (DNR) oversees implementation of this master plan; however, as necessary and during all future master planning for this area, a consultation team shall include the DNR property manager, a DNR liaison to DOT, a DOT Regional Environmental Coordinator, and US Army Corps of Engineers field staff.
- Protect and maintain Beaver Brook stream ecology and the integrity of its interconnected fish and wildlife habitats of natural communities and diverse composition.
- Provide opportunities for fishing, hunting, trapping, passive recreation and biological study.
- Provide high-quality, naturally occurring, mixed-age deciduous forest habitat including oak, aspen and native conifers that support the integrity and protection of nearby Beaver Brook wetlands.
- Provide a forested stream corridor of mixed tree species composition, with old-forest characteristics such as large trees, standing snags and abundant coarse, woody debris.
- Maintain consistency with the fisheries management objectives described in the Fisheries Management Plan.

Prescriptions

- Use passive management to protect and enhance the quality of the wetland community. Use no active management, except to control invasive species.
- Retain cover for ephemeral ponds and avoid negatively affecting their hydrology.
- Convert existing pine plantations to natural origin native hardwoods and native conifers, reserving some planted pine trees for diversity.
- Use extended rotation silvicultural techniques and winter-only harvest to improve vigor and stand quality. Maintain structural diversity by providing large, fully-developed trees, standing snags and abundant coarse woody debris. Retain some overly-mature and dead timber for wildlife habitat.
- Salvage operations due to catastrophic wind, ice, fire, disease or insects may take place. Prior to salvage, consult an interdisciplinary team from Wildlife, Forestry, NHC, and a DNR liaison to DOT to determine whether salvage should occur, considering the original objectives of the area.
- Allow and encourage research and monitoring.
- Continue to allow public access to the artesian well via a boardwalk and primitive hiking trail.
- Develop no further recreational features or infrastructure. Monitor and discourage unauthorized ATV use.
- Remove beaver and dams as necessary to maintain the coldwater stream environment required for robust, self-sustaining trout populations.
- Use appropriate fire suppression techniques to minimize resource damage and threat to nearby residents. If a wildland fire occurs, assess any damages caused by the fire or the suppression activities to determine possible adverse impacts to affected waters and other natural resources. If possible, an effort will be made to restore suppression furrows and other damage.

Note: “Passive management” as defined in ch. NR 44 Wis. Adm. Code, “means management where objectives are achieved without direct action.”



FLAT CREEK WILDLIFE AREA

Though small, this property provides a popular hunting, fishing and trapping area in a setting of high quality wetlands and a small mixed forest of native conifers and northern hardwoods. Habitat types on the property are among the highest habitat priorities for northern Wisconsin.



PROPERTY OVERVIEW

The Flat Creek Wildlife Area is 373 acres located along the shared border between Washburn and Sawyer counties. In addition to portions of Flat Creek, the property consists of aspen, swamp conifer, tamarack, northern hardwoods, balsam fir and numerous beaver ponds.

State Ownership:	373 acres
Fee Title:	373 acres
Easement:	0 acres

Maps

Click the links to access each map type in the online DNR Property Planning Viewer

[DNR & Other Lands](#)

[Recreation](#)

[Roads](#)

[Land Cover](#)

[Land Management Classification](#)

The property's primary use objective is to provide opportunities for hunting, fishing, and trapping. Compatible recreation and educational opportunities exist for activities such as hiking, bird watching, canoeing, snow shoeing, cross-country skiing, and wild-edible gathering; however, there are no designated facilities to support these activities.

RECREATION FACILITIES AND ACCESS

Roads and Parking Areas

This property has approximately 0.1 miles of public, non-DNR road that offer access to the property. A small parking area is also present.

LAND COVER

Land cover is primarily forested wetlands consisting of tamarack, spruce, and cedar. The remaining forested acreage is upland aspen. Of the non-forested acreage, a large percentage is open wetland and marsh. Land cover is not anticipated to substantively change.

Table 2.9. Flat Creek Wildlife Area Land Cover

Habitat Classification	GIS Acres	% Cover	Representative WisFIRS Cover Types
Forested Wetland	194	50	Swamp Hardwoods, Tamarack, White Cedar
Open Wetland/Marsh	110	29	
Upland Deciduous	82	21	Aspen
Upland Grass	1	<1	Remnant Sand Prairie



MANAGEMENT AREAS AND CLASSIFICATIONS

➤ Area 1: Flat Creek Habitat Management Area

The entirety of Flat Creek Wildlife Area is managed as one habitat management area (see Table A.1 for map). Projected land cover is not anticipated to change.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Management Objectives

- Protect and enhance Flat Creek stream ecology and its supporting fish and wildlife habitats; provide opportunities primarily for fishing, hunting and trapping.
- Provide high-quality, mixed-age deciduous forest habitat for wildlife species, with an emphasis on aspen, oak and natural origin, native conifer.
- Protect and preserve natural communities with northern white cedar and hemlock.
- Provide wildlife benefits on wetlands, particularly habitat for waterfowl nesting, brood rearing, and migratory stopover.
- Protect and enhance avian and herptile nesting opportunities.
- Accommodate nonmotorized, nature-based recreation and educational opportunities compatible with the other objectives of the property to the degree practicable with the property's capabilities.

Management Prescriptions

- Conduct timber sales and other management techniques, such as prescribed fire, that mimic natural events to enhance aspen, oak and other hardwood stands, by reserving some mature oaks and pines, and allowing some trees to mature and die within the forests.
- Maintain structural diversity by providing large, fully-developed trees, standing snags and abundant coarse woody debris.
- Salvage operations due to catastrophic wind, ice, fire, disease or insects may take place or instead, passive management may occur. Prior to salvage, consult an interdisciplinary team from Wildlife Management, Forestry, and NHC to determine salvage or management, considering the original objectives of the area.
- Use appropriate fire suppression techniques to minimize resource damage and threat to nearby residents. If a wildland fire occurs, assess any damages caused by the fire or the suppression activities to determine possible adverse impacts to affected waters and other natural resources. If possible, an effort will be made to restore suppression furrows and other damage.

Common Elements

Apply General Property Management Practices and Recreation Facilities and their Management Common Elements.

Apply Habitats and their Management Common Elements. Reference Table 2.9 and Table 2.2 to determine applicable Common Elements. Management described in Common Elements, which conflicts with management described in this document is not applicable.

Guidance for use of Common Elements can be found on page 11. If management described in this plan conflicts with Common Elements, apply the management described in this document.



- Encourage natural regeneration. When needed, planting or seeding of native conifers will be done in a way that mimics natural regeneration.
- Following completion of timber sales and instream habitat restoration work, close all logging roads. Where such roads are not needed for future management, conduct restoration activities for the first 50 feet of the closed trails and roads to restore them (including planting with native trees/shrubs and using rocks and berms).
- Maintain one native surface or gravel parking area.

CLAM LAKE WILDLIFE AREA

This property contains high-quality wetlands that, together with adjacent non-DNR parcels, support one of the most historically important wild rice beds in the state. Situated primarily in a setting of high quality wetlands and a small mixed forest of native conifers and northern hardwoods, this property includes the highest habitat priorities identified by the department for northern Wisconsin. It provides a popular hunting, fishing and trapping area.



PROPERTY OVERVIEW

Clam Lake Wildlife Area is a 261-acre property located in southern Burnett County, approximately three miles east of Siren on Clam Lake and the Clam River. The wildlife area was established in 2004 on the south side of Clam Lake, encompassing approximately a mile of the Clam River and a substantial portion of its mouth on Clam Lake. The

State Ownership:	261 acres
Fee Title:	261 acres
Easement:	0 acres

Maps

Click the links to access each map type in the online DNR Property Planning Viewer

[DNR & Other Lands](#)

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[Land Management Classification](#)

property includes a large island of approximately 20 acres each and a small 10-acre parcel on the east shore. A state-owned island is also near the property, management for this island is noted in the State-Owned Islands section (page 63).

The main acreage and islands are managed for waterfowl nesting habitat. Wild rice beds at the mouth of Clam River are protected for their high-quality food and wildlife cover. It is also important habitat for ruffed grouse, woodcock, deer and other game species. The property's primary use objective is to provide opportunities for hunting, fishing, and trapping. Recreation and educational opportunities exist for compatible activities such as hiking, bird watching, canoeing, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, and wild-edible gathering; however, there are no designated facilities to support these activities.

Special Attributes

This property contains high-quality wetlands that together with adjacent property parcels, support one of the most historically important wild rice beds in the state; however, production in recent time has diminished. A consortium including Wisconsin DNR, the Clam Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District, and the St. Croix Band of Chippewa are investigating the wild rice decline, unrelated to the master plan. Their findings may inform future planning and stewardship on wild rice lakes in the region.

The portion of the Clam River that flows through Clam Lake Wildlife Area is classified as an Outstanding Resource Water.

RECREATION FACILITIES AND ACCESS

Roads and Parking Areas

Clam Lake Wildlife Area has approximately 1.24 miles of public, non-DNR roads offering access to the property. Two small parking areas are provided.



LAND COVER

Most of Clam Lake Wildlife Area is open marsh and wetlands. A small portion is covered in upland deciduous forest: primarily aspen, tag alder and oak. The property is primarily managed for waterfowl nesting habitat. The rice beds at the mouth of Clam River are protected for their high-quality food and wildlife cover. Tribal and department efforts follow procedures outside this plan to restore wild rice and control invasive common carp. Land cover is projected to change minimally as planted pines convert to native conifers.

Table 2.10. Clam Lake Wildlife Area Land Cover

Habitat Classification	GIS Acres	% Cover	Projected % Cover	Representative WisFIRS Cover Types
Open Wetland/Marsh	121	39	39	Shallow Lake / Deep Marsh
Forested Wetland	71	23	23	Bottomland Hardwoods, Swamp Hardwoods
Upland Deciduous	42	13	14	Aspen
Shrub Wetland	29	9	9	Wetland Shrub
Upland Grass	27	9	9	Remnant Sand Prairie
Open Water	17	6	6	Minor Lake, Minor Stream
Upland Conifer	4	1	<1	Native Conifer, Pine Plantation

MANAGEMENT AREAS AND CLASSIFICATIONS

The entire property is managed as one habitat management area, as shown in the Land Management Classification map linked in Table A.1.

- Area 1: Clam Lake Habitat Management Area

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Management Objectives

- Protect and enhance the Clam Lake and Clam River ecology and their supporting fish and wildlife habitats of native species and diverse structural composition; provide opportunities primarily for fishing, hunting and trapping.
- Provide maximum wildlife benefits on wetlands, particularly habitat for waterfowl nesting, brood rearing, and migratory stopover.
- Provide high-quality, mixed-age deciduous forest habitat to support wildlife species, with an emphasis on aspen, oak, and native conifer.
- Convert existing pine plantations as appropriate to wetland cover or to natural origin aspen, oak, other hardwoods and native conifers, reserving some planted pine trees for diversity.
- Protect and enhance avian and herptile nesting opportunities.

Management Prescriptions

- Conduct timber sales and other management techniques, such as shearing and prescribed fire that mimic natural events, to enhance aspen, oak and other hardwood stands. Reserve some mature oaks and pines and allow some trees to mature and die within the forests.
- Maintain structural diversity by providing large, fully-developed trees, standing snags and abundant coarse woody debris.
- Use appropriate fire suppression techniques to minimize resource damage and threat to nearby residents. If a wildland fire occurs, assess any damages caused by the fire or the suppression activities to determine possible adverse impacts to affected waters and other natural resources. If possible, an effort will be made to restore suppression furrows and other damage.
- Encourage natural regeneration. When needed, planting or seeding of native conifers will be done in a way that mimics natural regeneration.
- Manage for alder and other wetland/upland shrub according to Common Elements.
- Consider management options such as mowing and prescribed fire to maintain wetlands and open fields.
- Following completion of timber sales and instream habitat restoration work, close all logging roads. Where such roads are not needed for future management, conduct restoration activities for the first 50 feet of the closed trails and roads to restore them as practical (including planting with native trees/shrubs and using rocks and berms).
- Salvage operations due to catastrophic wind, ice, fire, disease or insects may take place or instead, passive management may occur. Prior to salvage, consult an interdisciplinary team from Wildlife, Forestry, and NHC to determine salvage or management, considering the original objectives of the area.

Common Elements

Apply General Property Management Practices and Recreation Facilities and their Management Common Elements.

Apply Habitats and their Management Common Elements. Reference Table 2.6 and Table 2.2 to determine applicable Common Elements. Management described in Common Elements, which conflicts with management described in this document is not applicable.

Guidance for use of Common Elements can be found on page 11. If management described in this plan conflicts with Common Elements, apply the management described in this document.

State Fishery Areas of the Northwest Sands

Fishery areas included in this region provide access to coldwater trout streams and protect many headwater springs and tributaries in a setting of native northern hardwoods and conifers. Warmwater stream segments and wetlands contribute to the list of department identified priority habitats. These properties provide optimal habitat for fishing, hunting, trapping and compatible recreation opportunities.

FISHERY AREA MANAGEMENT AND USE

State fishery areas and other properties managed as such in the Northwest Sands include:

- Bean Brook Fishery Area
- Clam River Fishery Area
- Culbertson Springs Fishery Area
- McDermott Brook Fishery Area
- McKenzie Creek Fishery Area
- Spring Creek Fishery Area
- Whalen Creek Fishery Area
- Person Lake Fishery Area
- Clam River State Habitat Area*
- Green Lake State Habitat Area *
- Namekagon River State Habitat Area*
- Sand Lake State Habitat Area*
- Spooner Lake State Habitat Area*
- Yellow Lake State Habitat Area*
- Tozer State Spring Ponds*

Properties with an asterisk are written as their proposed names and currently exist under multiple designations. For current names, please see Table B.2.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND PRESCRIPTIONS FOR ALL FISHERY AREAS IN THE NORTHWEST SANDS

State Fishery Areas in the Northwest Sands are similar in their function and environmental context. This similarity allows the areas to be managed in much the same way. Management described in this section applies to all Northwest Sands Fishery Areas and the six state habitat areas and a state spring pond managed by the Fisheries Management program in the Northwest Sands.



Management for All Fishery Areas listed in this section and follow additional objectives and prescriptions as they appear for specific properties should be applied. If the management described for all fishery areas conflicts with a property-specific objective or prescription, follow the property-specific management.

Objectives for all Fishery Areas

- Protect and enhance lake and stream ecology and the integrity of their interconnected fish and wildlife habitats of natural communities with diverse species composition; provide opportunities primarily for fishing, hunting and trapping.
- Manage forest resources to encourage native wildlife species habitat by promoting aspen, white oak, northern pin oak, red oak, jack pine and other northern hardwood and coniferous species.
- Provide forested stream corridors of mixed tree species composition, with old-forest characteristics such as large trees, standing snags and abundant coarse woody debris.
- Maintain consistency with the fisheries management objectives described in fisheries program management plans.
- Provide fish and wildlife benefits on wetlands, particularly habitat for fish spawning and waterfowl nesting, brood rearing, and migratory stopover.
- Protect and enhance avian and herptile nesting opportunities where appropriate.
- Manage upland habitats to protect waterways and provide fish and wildlife habitat for fishing, hunting and trapping.
- As needed, develop and/or maintain limited, sustainable, small, lightly developed parking areas and primitive walk-in access trails [as defined by NR 44.07(3)(e)] along the river corridors to provide access for fishing and other nature-based recreational uses.

Prescriptions for all Fishery Areas

- Conduct timber sales, prescribed burns and other management techniques that mimic natural events to enhance aspen, oak, other hardwoods and native conifers, by reserving some mature oaks and pines, and allowing them to mature and die within the forests.
- Maintain structural diversity by providing large, fully-developed trees, standing snags and abundant coarse woody debris in appropriate areas.
- Use timber management and/or passive management to promote old-forest characteristics, both along streams and in uplands. Use extended rotation techniques and allow these stands to age beyond economic maturity.
- Convert pine plantations over time to aspen, oak, other hardwoods and native conifers through timber management techniques that mimic natural events. Reserve some planted pines in a random

Common Elements

Apply General Property Management Practices and Recreation Facilities and their Management Common Elements.

Apply Habitats and their Management Common Elements. Reference Table 2.6 and Table 2.2 to determine applicable Common Elements. Management described in Common Elements, which conflicts with management described in this document is not applicable.

Guidance for use of Common Elements can be found on page 11. If management described in this plan conflicts with Common Elements, apply the management described in this document.

pattern with random spacing and allow them to mature and die within the forest.

- When possible, work with partners and neighboring landowners to implement practices on public and private lands that improve habitat and water quality and move towards wholistic watershed management.
- Mowing and prescribed fire may be used to maintain open field habitat for turkey, woodcock, deer and other wildlife species.
- Following completion of timber sales and instream habitat restoration work, close all logging roads. Where such roads are not needed for future management, consider conducting restoration activities for the first 50 feet of the closed trails and roads to restore them (including planting with native trees/shrubs and using rocks and berms).
- Remove beaver and dams as necessary to maintain the coldwater stream environment required for robust, self-sustaining trout populations. Beaver are allowed where presence does not negatively affect trout habitat.
- Use appropriate fire suppression techniques to minimize resource damage and threat to nearby residents. If a wildland fire occurs, assess any damages caused by the fire or the suppression activities to determine possible adverse impacts to affected waters and other natural resources. If possible, an effort will be made to restore suppression furrows and other damage.
- Salvage operations due to catastrophic wind, ice, fire, disease or insects may take place or instead, passive management may occur. Prior to salvage, consult an interdisciplinary team from Fisheries Management, Wildlife Management, Forestry, and Natural Heritage Conservation to determine salvage or management, considering the original objectives of the area.
- Encourage natural regeneration of forests. When needed, planting or seeding of native conifers will be done in a way that mimics natural regeneration.
- Locate, construct, and maintain access trails on routes that minimize the potential for soil erosion, and install environmental protection measures as needed.
- Develop and maintain access parking at a vehicle capacity appropriate for the use level of the trail and to a development level that is sustainable and provides adequate environmental protection.

BEAN BROOK FISHERY AREA

PROPERTY OVERVIEW

Bean Brook Fishery Area includes seven parcels in Washburn and Sawyer counties with four streams and three natural spring ponds. The property was acquired in 1962 to provide fishing access and protect the habitat of the meandering Bean and Little Bean Brook and Mackay Creek. The property comprises linear units along Bean and Little Bean Brook and Mackay Creek. State-owned land is interspersed with private property. Nearly four miles of public, non-DNR roads run through or adjacent to the property offering access throughout.



State Ownership:	1633 acres
Fee Title:	1585 acres
Easement:	48 acres

Maps

Click the links to access each map type in the online DNR Property Planning Viewer

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The property is managed to protect the trout stream and wildlife habitat including its springs, and to provide opportunities for fishing, hunting, trapping and compatible outdoor recreational pursuits. Upon approval of this plan a statewide spring pond property that protects the headwaters of Bean Brook and the former Mackey Creek Fishery will be incorporated into Bean Brook Fishery Area.

Special Attributes

This property has one of the most diverse examples of alder thicket in the state, with borders along Bean Brook and Little Bean Brook. It includes at least 25 native wetland shrubs. It also supports a breeding population of rare birds. The area grades into a northern tamarack swamp toward Bean Brook. Bean Brook Springs and South Fork Bean Brook located in the fishery area, are classified as an Outstanding Resource Waters. Godfrey

Creek and Little Bean Brook are Exceptional Resource Waters.

RECREATION FACILITIES AND ACCESS

Roads and Parking Areas

Bean Brook Fishery Area has nine parking areas surfaced primarily with gravel or grass. One-tenth of a mile of open DNR road offer access to the property.

Water Access

Canoes and kayaks are carried from parking areas or road rights-of-way to the water. Nearby public boat access areas also offer water access.

Land Use and Partner Agreements

DNR maintains a fencing agreement with a local farmer which protects the waters of Little Bean Brook and Godfrey Creek from erosion. Both streams are Class I brook trout waters.



LAND COVER

Substantial wetlands cover the Bean Brook Fishery Area, with forested wetlands composed of tamarack, black spruce, and occasionally black ash. Tag alder swamps are also prevalent, and frequently contain many additional shrubs such as willows, red-osier dogwood, winterberry, black chokeberry, and bog birch. The uplands are comprised of aspen, mixed hardwood, conifer, and upland brush. Bean Brook, Little Bean Brook and Mackay Creek streams meander through the various pieces of the property. Projected land cover is not anticipated to change.

Table 2.11. Bean Brook Fishery Area Land Cover

Habitat Classification	GIS Acres	% Cover	Representative WisFIRS Cover Types
Shrub Wetland	577	37	Alder, Dogwood, Willow
Upland Deciduous	476	31	Aspen, Scrub Oak
Forested Wetland	323	23	Black Spruce, Swamp Hardwoods, Tamarack, White Cedar
Upland Conifer	140	6	Balsam Fir, Jack Pine, Red Pine, White Spruce
Upland Shrub	19	1	Alder
Open Wetland/Marsh	5	<1	
Open Water	3	<1	Minor Lake, Minor Stream
Upland Grass	3	<1	

MANAGEMENT AREAS AND CLASSIFICATIONS

The entire property is managed as one habitat management area as shown in the online DNR Property Planning Viewer (see Table A.1).

- Area 1: Bean Brook Fishery Habitat Management Area

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Apply Management Objectives and Prescriptions for all Northwest Sands fishery areas (page 34) and property-specific objectives and prescriptions.

Objectives

- Protect the integrity of representative natural community types, including the Alder and Tamarack Swamp recognized by the NHC program for its outstanding diversity and lack of invasive species.

Prescriptions

- Work with neighboring property owners to maintain fencing agreements to ensure cattle are kept out of streams on or near Bean Brook Fishery Area.
- Allow stream dredging to control water temperature, in addition to habitat and water quality management activities authorized in Common Elements.
- Develop no additional facilities in alder and tamarack swamp stands.

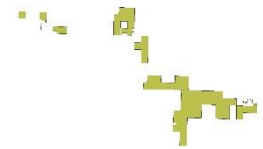


CLAM RIVER FISHERY AREA

PROPERTY OVERVIEW

Clam River Fishery Area consists of seven distinct parcels in southwest Burnett County that provide public access to much of the Clam River and its feeder streams, including all portions of Class I and Class II trout stream. The property was originally approved in 1958 as a Fish Management Project. The Clam River contains 29 species of fish; brook and brown trout are the most popular species with anglers.

Clam River Fishery Area is managed to protect and preserve habitat for trout, to improve habitat where possible, and to manage the North and South Forks of the Clam River and their springs for optimum trout production, while providing wildlife habitat and access for hunting, trapping and compatible outdoor recreational pursuits.



State Ownership:	2,571 acres
Fee Title:	2,558 acres
Easement:	13 acres

Maps

Click the links to access each map type in the online DNR Property Planning Viewer

[DNR & Other Lands](#)

[Recreation](#)

[Roads](#)

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[Land Management Classification](#)

Special Attributes

The property contains numerous points of historical interest. The old Arbuckle House and Logging Dam served as a stopping place for travelers along the old Stillwater to La Pointe Mail Road. The Sour Bean, Oxbow, and Forks were three other logging dams that existed along the North Fork of the Clam River during the early logging era. The North Fork of the Clam River is an Outstanding Resource Water.

RECREATION FACILITIES AND PUBLIC ACCESS

The property is a popular destination for fishing, hunting, and trapping. Native grassland areas were planted/restored in the early 2000's using Turkey Stamp funds, to help manage for wildlife such as turkeys and woodcock. The property is also used to hike, snowshoe, view wildlife, gather wild edibles, and canoe/kayak in the Clam River.

Roads and Parking Areas

Clam River Fishery Area has 0.7 miles of open, moderately developed DNR roads and 12 parking areas. 8.6 miles of public, non-DNR roads intersect or are adjacent to the property.

Water Access

The property has one boat launch on Spring Lake Road on the Burnett and Washburn County line.

Land Use and Partner Agreements

The department maintains a hay mowing agreement with a neighboring landowner for several of the open field areas on the property.



LAND COVER

Premiere wetland habitat on this property includes the Clam River trout stream and associated marshes and shrub-swamps. The uplands consist of aspen, northern hardwood, swamp hardwoods, oak, pine, and numerous old fields and forest openings. Scattered small lakes are also present, in places fringed by marsh, poor fen, and sedge meadow. Projected land cover is not anticipated to change.

Table 2.12. Clam River Fishery Area Land Cover

Habitat Classification	GIS Acres	% Cover	Representative WisFIRS Cover Types
Upland Deciduous	1539	60	Aspen, Northern Hardwoods, Red Maple, Oak, Scrub Oak
Shrub Wetland	295	12	Wetland Shrub
Forested Wetland	260	10	Swamp Hardwoods
Upland Grass	178	7	Remnant Prairie – Dry Mesic
Open Wetland/Marsh	140	6	Emergent Wetland
Upland Conifer	86	3	Red Pine, White Pine, White Spruce
Open Water	51	2	Minor Lake, Minor Stream

MANAGEMENT AREAS AND CLASSIFICATIONS

- Area 1: Clam River Fishery Habitat Management Area

The entire property is managed as one habitat management area as shown in the online DNR Property Planning Viewer (see Table A.1).

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Apply Management Objectives and Prescriptions for all Northwest Sands fishery areas (page 34) and property-specific objectives and prescriptions.

Prescriptions

- Develop a ford and service road, closed to public access, across the Clam River to facilitate timber harvests.
- Evaluate options for addressing water quality impacts within the watershed and implement as feasible.
- Do not develop any new recreational facilities, except to provide primitive or lightly-developed angler access trails.
- Follow Common Elements for property management regarding protection of cultural resources.

CULBERTSON SPRINGS FISHERY AREA

PROPERTY OVERVIEW

Culbertson Springs Fishery Area is a small parcel that protects the headwater springs of Culbertson Lake, a one-acre shallow lake in Burnett County, southeast of Danbury. Fish in Culbertson Lake include northern pike and trout. The property is managed to protect and provide fishing access to Culbertson Springs and provide wildlife habitat on the uplands. The springs are stocked annually to provide a put-grow-take fishery for brook trout. The property provides quality wildlife habitat and is used primarily for fishing, hunting, hiking, and other compatible activities.

State Ownership:	53 acres
Fee Title:	40 acres
Easement:	13 acres

Maps

Click the links to access each map type in the online DNR Property Planning Viewer

[DNR & Other Lands](#)

[Recreation](#)

[Roads](#)

[Land Cover](#)

[Land Management Classification](#)

RECREATION FACILITIES AND ACCESS

Roads and Parking Areas

A 0.2-mile primitive road, open to public use, provides access to the interior of the property. A public, non-DNR road known as Loon Creek Cutoff also provides access. A grass parking area is available.

LAND COVER

Habitat on this property consists of upland deciduous forest and open wetland and marsh areas, including the headwater springs. The upland portion of the property is a mix of aspen and northern pin oak. The forested wetland is a black spruce swamp comprised of spruce and tamarack. Open wetlands are dominated by a mix of stunted tamarack, lowland shrubs, poor fen, and sedge meadow vegetation interspersed with a network of springs. Projected land cover is not anticipated to change.

Table 2.13. Culbertson Springs Fishery Area Land Cover

Habitat Classification	GIS Acres	% Cover	Representative WisFIRS Cover Types
Upland Deciduous	22	55	Aspen, Scrub Oak
Open Wetland/Marsh	10	25	Fen, Sedge Meadow
Forested Wetland	3	7	Black Spruce, Tamarack
Open Water	2	5	Minor Stream, Minor Lake
Shrub Wetland	2	5	Wetland Shrub
Developed	1	3	Right of Way

MANAGEMENT AREAS AND CLASSIFICATIONS

The entire property is managed as one habitat management area as shown in the online DNR Property Planning Viewer (see Table A.1).

- Area 1: Culbertson Springs Fishery Habitat Management Area

Property Management

Apply Management Objectives and Prescriptions for all Northwest Sands fishery areas (page 34).



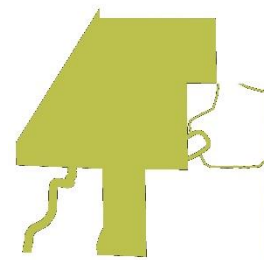
MCDERMOTT BROOK FISHERY AREA

PROPERTY OVERVIEW

McDermott Brook Fishery Area lies midway between the City of Hayward and Town of Cable in Sawyer County, adjacent to the Sawyer County Forest. It includes the spring headwaters of McDermott Brook, a tributary to the Namekagon River, which is part of the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway.

Several easements provide access to the property and associated streams. Habitat is managed to protect the fishery of McDermott Brook and its tributaries and springs.

The property provides opportunities for fishing, hunting, trapping and compatible recreation. Timber sales are the primary management method for protection of the spring pond, brook, and wildlife habitat. A trail that allows motorized recreation runs parallel to STH 63, between the road and the property boundary.



State Ownership:	151 acres
Fee Title:	143 acres
Easement:	8 acres

Special Attributes

McDermott Brook is classified as an Outstanding Resource Water.

Maps

Click the links to access each map type in the online DNR Property Planning Viewer

[DNR & Other Lands](#)

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RECREATION FACILITIES AND ACCESS

Roads and Parking Areas

The property has one parking area and is adjacent to 0.5 miles of non-DNR public roads.

LAND COVER

The uplands of McDermott Brook Fishery Area are primarily aspen. The wetlands consist of conifer swamp with spruce and tamarack, and lowland brush of tag alder, slender willow, and meadow sweet. A sedge meadow sits along the pond, brook, and the spring pond. Porcupine Lake and McDermott Brook provide the open water areas of the property. Land

cover is not anticipated to change.

Table 2.14. McDermott Brook Fishery Area Land Cover

Habitat Classification	GIS Acres	% Cover	Representative WisFIRS Cover Types
Shrub Wetland	54	37	Wetland Shrub
Upland Deciduous	44	30	Aspen
Forested Wetland	41	28	Black Spruce, White Cedar, Tamarack
Open Water	6	5	Minor Lake, Minor Stream

MANAGEMENT AREAS AND CLASSIFICATIONS

The entire property is managed as one habitat management area as shown in the online DNR Property Planning Viewer (see Table A.1).

- Area 1: McDermott Brook Fishery Habitat Management Area

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Apply Management Objectives and Prescriptions for all Northwest Sands fishery areas (page 34) and property-specific objectives and prescriptions.

Prescriptions

- Monitor property for unauthorized ATV/UTV access from the adjacent trail and take appropriate action to prevent ATV access if necessary.

MCKENZIE CREEK FISHERY AREA

PROPERTY OVERVIEW

McKenzie Creek Fishery Area is in Washburn County north of Spooner, along McKenzie Creek, which flows west and empties into the Namekagon River. In addition to the 120-acre fee-title property, a 27-acre fishing access easement covers all of McKenzie Creek except for a 0.25-mile stretch from the western edge of the property to CTH F.

McKenzie Creek Fishery Area was established in 1962 to protect and manage the coldwater fish resources of McKenzie Creek, its tributaries and headwater springs. Additional acquisitions included 80 acres of Statewide Spring Ponds (proposed to be re-designated to this property) and fishing access easements.

State Ownership:	147 acres
Fee Title:	120 acres
Easement:	27 acres

Maps

Click the links to access each map type in the online DNR Property Planning Viewer

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[Land Management Classification](#)

The overall management goal of the property is to protect the fishery habitat of the Namekagon River, McKenzie Creek, its tributaries and springs; implement sustainable forestry; and to provide fishing and other nature-based recreational opportunities. Stands of aspen provide a diversity of age classes that benefit deer, grouse, woodcock and other early successional dependent wildlife species.

Special Attributes

McKenzie Creek is classified as an Exceptional Resource Water.

RECREATION FACILITIES AND ACCESS

Roads and Parking Areas

The property has one parking area in the southeast corner off CTH F, which borders the southern edge of the property for 0.2 miles. Anglers may also park alongside CTH F to access the stream easement.

LAND COVER

Table 2.15. McKenzie Creek Fishery Area Land Cover

Habitat Classification	GIS Acres	% Cover	Representative WisFIRS Cover Types
Upland Deciduous	80	40	Aspen, Oak
Shrub Wetland	79	40	Alder, Tamarack
Forested Wetland	39	19	Swamp Hardwoods
Upland Conifer	2	<1	White Pine
Open Water	1	<1	Minor Stream

The upland deciduous forest is comprised of aspen and northern red oak stands. The remainder of the property consists of forested wetlands. A large shrub wetland dominated by alder, tamarack, and ericaceous shrubs, likely



influenced by beaver dams, occurs south of the McKenzie Creek headwater spring ponds. Stands of black ash and tamarack are found in the far northwest portion of the property. Land cover is not projected to change.

MANAGEMENT AREAS AND CLASSIFICATIONS

The entire property is managed as one habitat management area as shown in the online DNR Property Planning Viewer (see Table A.1).

- Area 1: McKenzie Creek Fishery Habitat Management Area

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Apply Management Objectives and Prescriptions for all Northwest Sands fishery areas (page 34).

SPRING CREEK FISHERY AREA

PROPERTY OVERVIEW

Spring Creek Fishery Area is located one-mile north of Hertel in Burnett County and includes Spring Creek Springs, the headwaters of Spring Creek. Spring Creek flows north to the Yellow River and is classified as Class I trout water. The original purchase in 1967

included 43 acres, with an additional 30 acres added in 1987. It is comprised of a mix of aspen stands, northern hardwoods, swamp hardwoods, black spruce, lowland brush and a spring pond. The property protects a portion

of Spring Creek and its tributaries and springs; provides quality fish (primarily trout) and wildlife habitat, implements sustainable forest management; and provides opportunities for wildlife and nature-based recreation.

State Ownership:	73 acres
Fee Title:	73 acres
Easement:	0 acres

Maps

Click the links to access each map type in the online DNR Property Planning Viewer

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Special Attributes

Spring Brook, located on the property, is classified as an Exceptional Resource Water.

RECREATION FACILITIES AND ACCESS

Roads and Parking Areas

The property has one parking area, with access from Shrider Rd, a 0.39-mile primitive road on the property. An additional 0.25 miles of fully developed non-DNR public road borders the property.

Land Use and Partner Agreements

Burnett County maintains a snowmobile trail across the northeast portion of the property.

LAND COVER

Table 2.16. Spring Creek Fishery Area Land Cover

Habitat Classification	GIS Acres	% Cover	Representative WisFIRS Cover Types
Upland Deciduous	33	48	Aspen, Scrub Oak
Forested Wetland	16	23	Black Spruce, Swamp Hardwoods
Shrub Wetland	8	10	Wetland Shrub
Open Water	7	10	Minor Stream
Developed	5	7	Right of Way

The uplands of the property are primarily aspen and scrub oak. The lowlands are composed of lowland brush and swamp hardwoods. Small pockets of black spruce also exist. Forested wetlands become flooded due to beaver activity on the creek, leaving dead trees and shrubs. Reed canary grass is common along the water's edge. The right-

of-way surrounding the access road to the property accounts for the five acres of developed land. Land cover is not projected to change.

MANAGEMENT AREAS AND CLASSIFICATION

The entire property is managed as one habitat management area as mapped in the online DNR Property Planning Viewer (see Table A.1).

- Area 1: Spring Creek Fishery Habitat Management Area

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

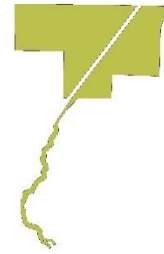
Apply Management Objectives and Prescriptions for all Northwest Sands fishery areas (page 34).

WHALEN CREEK FISHERY AREA

PROPERTY OVERVIEW

Whalen Creek Fishery Area is in central Washburn County, approximately one mile north of Whalen Lake, north of Trego. The property includes Whalen Creek, a tributary to the well-known Namekagon River, and the Whalen Creek headwater springs and wetlands.

The property is comprised of scenic rolling topography that includes oak, aspen, mixed hardwood, pine and grass openings. Protection of the headwater springs was integral to the property acquisition, which began in the early 1960s, when Whalen Creek was recognized as being high quality brook trout water. The portion of the Whalen Creek running through the property is a Class I trout stream.



State Ownership:	191 acres
Fee Title:	184 acres
Easement:	7 acres

Maps

Click the links to access each map type in the online DNR Property Planning Viewer

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[Land Management Classification](#)

The property protects Whalen Creek and its tributaries and springs while providing fishing opportunities and providing opportunities for wildlife and nature-based recreation.

The Wild Rivers State Trail divides the property and runs parallel to the creek. This multi-use trail allows walking, bicycling, running, horseback riding, snowshoeing, dog sledding, cross country skiing, ATVing and snowmobiling. The remainder of the property allows for fishing, hunting, trapping, snowshoeing, hiking, cross-country skiing, wildlife viewing, and wild edibles gathering.

Special Attributes

Whalen Creek is classified as an Exceptional Resource Water.

RECREATION FACILITIES AND ACCESS

Trails

Approximately 1.7 miles of the Wild Rivers State Trail bisects the property. Foot access is possible from the trail to the fishery area; however, fishery area wetlands and habitat management goals are not compatible with motorized access from the trail.

Roads and Parking Areas

Two parking areas are provided. 0.7 miles of non-DNR public roads cross the property.



LAND COVER

Table 2.17. Whalen Creek Fishery Area Land Cover

Habitat Classification	GIS Acres	% Cover	Representative WisFIRS Cover Types
Upland Deciduous	110	62	Aspen, Oak
Open Wetland/Marsh	35	20	Sedge Meadow, Muskeg-Bog
Shrub Wetland	16	9	Wetland Shrub
Upland Conifer	11	6	Red Pine
Forested Wetland	3	2	Tamarack
Upland Grass	3	1	Remnant Sand Prairie

The property consists mostly of upland deciduous forest comprised of aspen and northern red oak stands. There is a small acreage of older red pine plantation. The remaining acreage on the property is a mix of lowland brush mixed with stunted tamarack and sedge meadow, bordering the creek and headwater springs, and tamarack swamp and boggy wetland in isolated depressions. Land cover is not projected to change.

MANAGEMENT AREAS AND CLASSIFICATIONS

The entire property is managed as one habitat management area as shown in the online DNR Property Planning Viewer (see Table A.1).

- Area 1: Whalen Creek Fishery Habitat Management Area

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Apply Management Objectives and Prescriptions for all Northwest Sands fishery areas (page 34) and property-specific prescriptions.

Prescriptions

- Monitor unauthorized uses of the property, including bicycle, horse, and ATV/UTV use from the Wild Rivers State Trail. Take steps to deter unauthorized property use as necessary.

OTHER PROPERTIES MANAGED AS STATE FISHERY AREAS

As noted on page 34, the properties in Table 2.18 are managed as Fishery Areas. All names in Table 2.18 are proposed. For current designations, please see Table B.2. Maps for the properties in this section can be found in Table A.1.

Table 2.18. Other DNR Properties Managed as Fishery Areas

Property	GIS Acres	County	Land Management Classification
Clam River State Habitat Area	9	Burnett	Habitat Management Area
Green Lake State Habitat Area	4	Burnett	Habitat Management Area
Namekagon River State Habitat Area	114	Washburn	Habitat Management Area
Person Lake Fishery Area	9	Douglas	Habitat Management Area
Sand Lake State Habitat Area	44	Burnett	Habitat Management Area
Spooner Lake State Habitat Area	84	Washburn	Habitat Management Area
Yellow Lake State Habitat Area	218	Burnett	Habitat Management Area
Tozer State Spring Ponds	30	Washburn	Habitat Management Area

Special Attributes

The Namekagon River is classified as an Outstanding Resource Water where it flows through Namekagon River State Habitat Area.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT AND USE

Each property in Table 2.18 is managed as one land management area, classified as a habitat management area.

Apply Management Objectives and Prescriptions for All Northwest Sands Fishery Areas (page 34) to all properties in Table 2.18. Apply Common Elements for General Property Administration and Habitats and their Management. Determine land cover and reference table 2.2 to identify applicable Common Elements for habitat types located on each property. If management described in this plan conflicts with Common Elements, follow the management described in this document.

INCH LAKE STATE NATURAL AREA

Inch Lake State Natural Area is a diverse property featuring a wild lake, and diverse natural communities of within its upland forests and wetlands. The headwaters of the White River, a Class I trout stream, are protected here. Popular species such as bald eagles and common loons use the property. Canoeing and kayaking, popular throughout the Northwest Sands region, is often pursued on the undeveloped Inch Lake. The diversity of exemplary natural communities and uncommon species habitat found on this property warrant continued recognition as a State Natural Area. The Northern Dry-Mesic Forest and undeveloped lakes, along with the associated plant and animal habitats are among the very best in the state.



PROPERTY OVERVIEW

Inch Lake State Natural Area is located in the center of Bayfield County adjacent to private lands and the Chequamegon National Forest. Designated in 2007, this state natural area features two undeveloped lakes surrounded by wetlands and rolling uplands of Northern Dry Mesic Forest, including areas of large diameter red and white pine. Inch Lake is a 31-acre undeveloped, soft-water seepage lake. Its undeveloped nature is an increasingly uncommon feature as development pressure intensifies in northern Wisconsin. No motors are allowed, the fishery is catch and release only; only artificial lures may be used. These special regulations provide important research opportunities related to fishing.

State Ownership:	542 acres
Fee Title:	542 acres
Easement:	0 acres

Maps

Click the links to access each map type in the online DNR Property Planning Viewer

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The larger of the two lakes, Hildur Lake, is a 66-acre hard-water drainage lake on the lower end of the Pike Lake chain. Hildur Lake and its associated spring pond are the headwaters of the White River, a well-known cold-water trout fishery.

RECREATION CONDITIONS

The property is open to hiking, fishing (under special regulations), cross-country skiing, hunting, and trapping. A carry-in boat launch and access trail are available on Inch Lake.

Roads and Parking Areas

The property has two parking area, one on CTH H and one on Scenic Drive. Approximately 0.5 miles of primitive road for carry-in boat access lead from the Scenic Drive parking area to Inch Lake and Hildur Lake. The road is closed to public motorized access.

Water Access

Two carry-in water access points exist on or very near the property. The carry-in access for Hildur Lake can be accessed from CTH H but is not located on DNR land. The carry-in launch on Inch Lake is accessed via the Scenic Drive parking area and primitive road. Boat motors may not be used on Inch Lake.



LAND COVER

Forest Certification

For the purposes of forest certification, Inch Lake State Natural Area is considered a high conservation value forest.

Table 2.19 lists the habitat classifications (land cover) for this property. Projected cover percentage is the proportion of cover expected in 50 years.

Table 2.19. Inch Lake State Natural Area Land Cover

Habitat Classification	GIS Acres	% Cover	Projected % Cover	Representative WisFIRS Cover Types
Upland Deciduous	387	68	66	Aspen, Northern Hardwoods
Upland Conifer	87	15	17	Red Pine, White Pine
Open Water	33	6	6	Minor Lake, Minor Stream
Open Wetland/Marsh	27	5	5	Marsh
Shrub Wetland	12	2	2	Alder
Upland Grass	9	2	2	Upland Grass
Developed	8	1	1	Right of Way
Forested Wetland	6	1	1	White Cedar, Swamp Hardwoods

Stands of aspen and hardwoods dominate much of the property, with a few stands of red and white pine also present. Timber management has not been used on the property since its purchase. The land cover of Inch Lake State Natural is projected to change only slightly, with approximately two percent of the upland deciduous area converting to upland conifer over the next 50 years.

MANAGEMENT AREAS AND CLASSIFICATIONS

The entirety of Inch Lake State Natural Area is managed as one native community management area as shown in the online DNR Property Planning Viewer (see Table A.1).

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Objectives

- Manage towards a mixed forest of long-lived species such as white pine, red pine, oak and Northern Hardwoods, while reducing aspen dominance. Provide older age classes.
- Maintain and enhance the hydrology, water quality and scenic value of Inch and Hildur Lakes.
- Allow natural processes to determine the ecological characteristics the wetlands on the property.
- Provide access to Inch Lake for nonmotorized watercraft use.

Common Elements

Apply General Property Management Practices Common Elements. If management described in this plan conflicts with Common Elements, apply the management described in this document.

Prescriptions



- Use active management, including commercial harvest, prescribed burning and underplanting to convert aspen-dominated stands to longer-lived tree species with a long-term goal of providing older forest characteristics. Use non-commercial, timber stand improvement techniques such as hand girdling to promote desirable tree species such as white pine, red pine and oak.
- When establishing timber sales, maintain a no-cut zone along the lake shorelines, such that timber harvesting operations are not visible from the lakes.
- No timber management will take place in wetland stands, although invasive species may be controlled.
- Maintain the existing carry-in boat access on Inch Lake. No additional recreational features shall be developed.

LAMPSON MORaine PINES STATE NATURAL AREA

The exemplary natural communities and uncommon species found within Lampson Moraine Pines property warrant continued recognition as a State Natural Area. The Northern Dry-Mesic Forest and Hardwood Swamp are among the very best in the state.



PROPERTY OVERVIEW

Lampson Moraine Pines State Natural Area features Northern Dry-Mesic Forest with old-growth pine (some more than two-feet in diameter) and white pine. The property's primary purpose is to serve as a reserve and

State Ownership:	120 acres
Fee Title:	120 acres
Easement:	0 acres

Maps

Click the links to access each map type in the online DNR Property Planning Viewer

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ecological reference area for Northern Dry-mesic Forest, Northern Wet Forest, and Hardwood Swamp. The public can access the State Natural Area via an access easement from Oakridge Drive. No developed facilities exist on the site.

Forest Certification

For the purposes of forest certification, Lampson Moraine Pines State Natural Area is considered a high conservation value forest.

LAND COVER

Land cover for Lampson Pines State Natural Area is shown in Table 2.20. No change in landcover is anticipated.

Table 2.20. Lampson Moraine Pines State Natural Area Land Cover

Habitat Classification	GIS Acres	% Cover	Representative WisFIRS Cover Types
Forested Wetland	75	63	Tamarack, Swamp Hardwoods, White Cedar
Upland Conifer	23	19	Red Pine
Shrub Wetland	21	18	Wetland Shrub

MANAGEMENT AREAS AND CLASSIFICATIONS

Lampson Moraine Pines is composed of one native community management area as shown in the online DNR Property Planning Viewer (see Table A.1).



PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Apply General Property Management Practices Common Elements. Guidance for use of Common Elements can be found on page 11. If management described in this plan conflicts with Common Elements, apply the management described in this document.

Objectives

- Manage property as a reserve and ecological reference area for Northern Dry-mesic Forest and Hardwood Swamp.

Prescriptions

- Passively manage the entire property. Salvage due to catastrophic wind, ice, fire, disease or insects may take place. Prior to salvage, an interdisciplinary team will be assembled to determine if salvage operations should be undertaken, given the original objectives of the area. Active management may be used to control invasive species.

JONES LAKE STATE NATURAL AREA

The exemplary natural communities and uncommon species habitat found within Jones Lake State Natural Area warrant continued recognition as a State Natural Area. The Northern Dry-Mesic Forest, along with the associated plant/animal habitats, are among the very best in the state.



PROPERTY OVERVIEW

The DNR-owned portion of Jones Lake State Natural Area consists of a small twelve-acre parcel of land. A 37-acre lake brings the designated

State Ownership:	12 acres
Fee Title:	12 acres
Easement:	0 acres

State Natural Area to 49-acres in total. The land component is composed primarily of Northern Hardwoods. The property can be accessed via Jones Lake or Iron Lake Roads.

Forest Certification

For the purposes of forest certification, Lampson Moraine Pines State Natural Area is considered a high conservation value forest.

LAND COVER

Land cover for Jones Lake State Natural Area is shown in Table 2.21. No change in landcover is anticipated.

Maps

Click the links to access each map type in the online DNR Property Planning Viewer

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Table 2.21. Jones Lake State Natural Area Land Cover

Habitat Classification	GIS Acres	% Cover	Representative WisFIRS Cover Types
Upland Deciduous	10	71	Northern Hardwoods
Farmland	2	29	Farmland

MANAGEMENT AREAS AND CLASSIFICATIONS

Jones Lake State Natural Area is classified as a native community management area as shown in the online DNR Property Planning Viewer (see Table A.1).

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Apply General Property Management Practices Common Elements. Guidance for use of Common Elements can be found on page 11. If management described in this plan conflicts with Common Elements, apply the management described in this document.

Objectives

- Manage property as a reserve and ecological reference area for Northern Dry-Mesic Forest.



Prescriptions

- Passively manage the entire property. Salvage due to catastrophic wind, ice, fire, disease or insects may take place. Prior to salvage, an interdisciplinary team will be assembled to determine if salvage operations should be undertaken, given the original objectives of the area. Active management may be used to control invasive species.

GOOSE LAKE STATE HABITAT AREA

This property includes globally rare pine/oak barrens habitat that supports abundant wildlife species, although it is small. Habitat is valuable for waterfowl, furbearers and herptiles and offers a high-quality opportunity for waterfowl hunting.



PROPERTY OVERVIEW

Goose Lake State Habitat Area is in east central Burnett County on the north side of Goose Lake, a 62-acre seepage lake. This state habitat area was established in 1959 to provide wildlife habitat and opportunities for public hunting, fishing and trapping. Compatible recreation and educational opportunities exist for activities such as hiking,

State Ownership:	134 acres
Fee Title:	134 acres
Easement:	0 acres

bird watching, canoeing, snow shoeing, cross-country skiing, and wild-edible gathering; however, there are no designated facilities to support these activities.

Maps

Click the links to access each map type in the online DNR Property Planning Viewer

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[Recreation](#)

[Roads](#)

[Land Cover](#)

[Land Management Classification](#)

RECREATION FACILITIES AND ACCESS

Water Access

One back-in boat launch exits on the property.

Roads and Parking Areas

A small parking lot serves visitors to Goose Lake State Habitat Area. Goose Lake Launch Road is a primitive DNR road open for motorized use that crosses a portion of the property. Lincoln Street runs along the property for 0.32 miles, also providing access.

LAND COVER

Table 2.22. Goose Lake State Habitat Area Land Cover

Habitat Classification	GIS Acres	% Cover	Representative WisFIRS Habitat Types
Upland Deciduous	61	47	Aspen
Pine/Oak Barrens	38	30	Jack Pine, Scrub Oak
Forested Wetland	12	9	Tamarack
Open Wetland/Marsh	11	9	Marsh
Upland Grass	7	5	Upland Grass

The property consists of upland deciduous forest with a mix of aspen, oak, pine, and remnant jack pine/oak barrens. Additional acreage includes upland grass and forested wetlands. The remaining habitat is open wetlands. Land cover is not anticipated to change.

Management Areas and Classifications

The entire property is managed as one habitat management area as shown in the online DNR Property Planning Viewer (see Table A.1).

- Area 1: Goose Lake Habitat Management Area

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Management Objectives

- Protect and enhance Goose Lake and its supporting fish and wildlife habitats; provide opportunities primarily for fishing, hunting and trapping.
- Manage barrens as a shifting mosaic of habitat by following the principles and general framework described in the Northwest Sands Habitat Corridor Plan (Reetz, Hull, Fandel, & Lutz, 2013)
- Provide high-quality, mixed-age deciduous forest habitat for wildlife species, with an emphasis on aspen, oak and jack pine forest.
- Provide maximum wildlife benefits on wetlands, particularly habitat for waterfowl nesting, brood rearing, and migratory stopover.
- Protect and enhance avian and herptile nesting opportunities.
- Accommodate compatible, nonmotorized, nature-based recreation and education opportunities as compatible with the property's other objectives.

Management Prescriptions

- The property manager may develop a barrens management fire plan, developed in consultation with area biologists, foresters, natural heritage conservation (NHC) and fisheries staff.
- Develop and maintain structural diversity including open treeless areas, shrub savanna, savanna, near-closed and closed canopy woodlands of jack pine and/or oak and aspen.
- Follow the principles and general framework described in the Northwest Sands Habitat Corridor Plan (Reetz, Hull, Fandel, & Lutz, 2013).
- Conduct timber sales and other management techniques that mimic natural events, allowing some trees to mature and die within the forests. If timber sale is used to manage hardwoods, reserve some mature oaks and pines, allowing them to mature and die naturally.
- Maintain structural diversity by providing large, fully-developed trees, standing snags and abundant coarse woody debris.

Common Elements

Apply General Property Management Practices and Recreation Facilities and their Management Common Elements.

Apply Habitats and their Management Common Elements. Reference Table 2.6 and Table 2.2 to determine applicable Common Elements. Management described in Common Elements, which conflicts with management described in this document is not applicable.

Guidance for use of Common Elements can be found on page 11. If management described in this plan conflicts with Common Elements, apply the management described in this document.



- Salvage operations due to catastrophic wind, ice, fire, disease or insects may take place or instead, passive management may occur. Prior to salvage, consult an interdisciplinary team from Wildlife, Forestry, and NHC to determine salvage or management, considering the original objectives of the area.
- Use appropriate fire suppression techniques to minimize resource damage and threat to nearby residents. If a wildland fire occurs, assess any damages caused by the fire or the suppression activities to determine possible adverse impacts to affected waters and other natural resources. If possible, an effort will be made to restore suppression furrows and other damage.
- Encourage natural regeneration. When needed, planting or seeding of native conifers will be done in a way that mimics natural regeneration.
- Following completion of timber sales and instream habitat restoration work, close all logging roads. Where such roads are not needed for future management, conduct restoration activities for the first 50 feet of the closed trails and roads to restore them (including planting with native trees/shrubs and using rocks and berms).

OTHER WILDLIFE-MANAGED STATE HABITAT AREAS

Three state habitat areas, shown in Table 2.23 and managed primarily for wildlife, are present in the Northwest Sands region. The properties have no developed facilities.

Table 2.23. Other Wildlife-Managed State Habitat Area

Property	GIS Acres	County	Access
Town of Gordon State Habitat Area	20	Douglas	Access road off South Mail Road or through St. Croix National Scenic Riverway lands.
Truck Lake State Habitat Area	39	Burnett	Thompson and Thompson Bay Roads
Upper Twin Lake State Habitat Area	35	Burnett	Water access via Upper Twin Lake only

All property names shown in Table 2.23 are proposed. For current names, please see Table B.2.

LAND COVER

Truck Lake and Upper Twin Lake land cover is a mix of upland deciduous forest, open water and wetlands. The upland portion of the property is comprised of aspen and northern pin oak. Town of Gordon State Habitat Area is predominantly upland conifer.

MANAGEMENT AREAS AND CLASSIFICATIONS

Each of the properties in Table 2.23 is composed of one habitat management area. These are shown in the online DNR Property Planning Viewer (see Table A.1). The objective of these properties is to provide the public access to nature-based nonmotorized recreational activities while protecting and enhancing fish and wildlife habitat.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Apply the following management prescriptions.

Prescriptions

- Maintain or develop one parking area per property in Table 2.23 as feasible and needed given visitor demands.
- Maintain or develop one boat access point (back-in or carry-in) per property in Table 2.23 as feasible and needed given visitor demands.
- Primitive to lightly-developed (NR 44) nonmotorized trails may be developed. Trail development should be conducted in a manner that enhances the objective of the property.

Common Elements

Apply General Property Management Practices and Recreation Facilities and their Management Common Elements.

Apply Habitats and their Management Common Elements. Use land cover data and Table 2.2 to determine applicable Common Elements. Management described in Common Elements, which conflicts with management described in this document is not applicable.

Guidance for use of Common Elements can be found on page 11. If management described in this plan conflicts with Common Elements, apply the management described in this document.



STATE-OWNED ISLANDS

The Northwest Sands, a region rich in rivers, lakes and flowages, also contains many islands owned by the State of Wisconsin. This section outlines management for those islands under the designation of state-owned island. State-owned islands are unsurveyed and unattached islands in inland lakes north of townships 33 and 34, granted to the State of Wisconsin from the federal government through House Bill No. 13417, introduced in 1911 and passed in 1912. The number of state-owned islands changes as surveying methods improve, property disputes are resolved, and water levels vary. Islands not recognized when the initial grant from the federal government occurred in 1911 are still granted to the State of Wisconsin as they are recognized as meeting the criteria of the initial act.

The Northwest Sands region contains 46 state-owned islands. The federal government granted these islands to Wisconsin for the purpose of being added to the state's forest reserves. As such, all state-owned islands are under the administrative control of the Division of Forestry. State-owned islands are managed according to department Handbook 2861 – State Owned Island Handbook and the following state statutes and administrative codes:

- Section 28.02(1), Wis. Stats. defines state-owned islands as state forest lands.
- Section 28.02(4), Wis. Stats. establishes that sale of state-owned islands is subject to the same restrictions as the sale of state forest lands.
- Section 28.02(6), Wis. Stats. prohibits leases on state-owned islands after June 25, 1925, except existing leases to charitable and nonprofit organizations and where improvements had been made.
- Section 29.27(3), Wis. Stats. governs the construction, identification and removal of waterfowl blinds on state lands.
- Chapter NR 45, Wis. Adm. Code pertains to the conduct of visitors to state parks, state forests, and all state-owned islands.
- Section NR 1.31, Wis. Adm. Code establishes that the department maintains state-owned islands in as natural and undisturbed condition as possible while permitting limited public use on islands suited for water route camping or day use.
- Section NR 1.48, Wis. Adm. Code further provides that no leases for private use shall be executed, extended, or renewed, except if the Secretary determines that the lease will serve a public benefit or provide for public use.

State-owned islands are named according to the county in which they are found. Those state-owned islands for which this plan establishes management are:

- State Owned Islands - Bayfield County - Half Moon Lake - Star Island
- State Owned Islands - Bayfield County - Lake Millicent - Francis Island
- State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Bashaw Lake - Island No. 1
- State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Birch Island Lake - Burnt Island
- State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Clam Lake - Island No. 1
- State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Conners Lake - Island No. 1
- State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Elbow Lake - Island No. 1



- State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Goose Lake - Island No. 1
- State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Green Lake - Island No. 1
- State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Green Lake - Island No. 2
- State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Green Lake - Island No. 3
- State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Green Lake - Island No. 6
- State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Johnson Lake - Island No. 2
- State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Johnson Lake - Island No. 3
- State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Johnson Lake - Island No. 4
- State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Johnson Lake - Island No. 5
- State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Long Lake - Island No. 1
- State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Long Lake - Island No. 2
- State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Lang Lake - Island No. 1
- State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Mud Lake - Island No. 1
- State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Myre Lake - Island No. 1
- State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Oak Lake - Island No. 1
- State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Point Lake - Island No. 4
- State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Point Lake - Island No. 5
- State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Tomoe Lake - Island No. 1
- State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Webb Lake - Island No. 1
- State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Wood Lake - Island No. 1
- State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Wood Lake - Island No. 2
- State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Wood Lake - Island No. 3
- State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Wood Lake - Island No. 4
- State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Wood Lake - Island No. 5
- State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Wood Lake - Island No. 6
- State Owned Islands - Douglas County - Murray Lake - Island No. 1
- State Owned Islands - Douglas County - Muskrat Lake - Island No. 1
- State Owned Islands - Sawyer County - Sissabagama Lake - Cowhorn
- State Owned Islands - Sawyer County - Sissabagama Lake - Island No. 1
- State Owned Islands - Sawyer County - Sissabagama Lake - Island No. 2
- State Owned Islands - Sawyer County - Sissabagama Lake - Sunnyside

- State Owned Islands - Washburn County - Cable Lake - Island No. 1
- State Owned Islands - Washburn County - Dock Lake - Island No. 1
- State Owned Islands - Washburn County - Dock Lake - Island No. 2
- State Owned Islands - Washburn County - Ellsworth Lake - Island No. 1
- State Owned Islands - Washburn County - Island Lake - Half Moon
- State Owned Islands - Washburn County - Lake Nancy - Island No. 1
- State Owned Islands - Washburn County - Lower Kimball Lake - Island No. 1
- State Owned Islands - Washburn County - Oak Lake - Island No. 1

All state-owned island names in this section are proposed. For current names, please see the Table B.2. Other state-owned islands not recognized as such at the time of this plan's approval, but falling within the Northwest Sands Ecological Landscape, will be covered under this plan at the time of designation as a state-owned island.

Special Attributes

Douglas County – Muskrat Lake – Island No. 1 and Douglas County – Murray Lake – Island No. 1 both fall within the Douglas and Bayfield County Barrens Conservation Opportunity Areas. Burnett County – Webb Lake – Island No. 1 falls within the Namekagon Barrens Conservation Opportunity Area. Lake Millicent, in Bayfield County, is classified as an Outstanding Resource Water.

Land Management Classifications and Property Management

The primary purpose of state-owned islands is to enhance the aesthetics of the natural environment. All state-owned islands covered under this plan are classified as Scenic Resource Management Areas with recreation use classifications of Type as shown in the online DNR Property Planning Viewer (see Table A.1). The following management objectives and prescriptions apply.

Objectives

- Manage islands primarily for aesthetics, fish and wildlife habitat, and related recreational uses. Species and natural community management should be consistent with the surrounding landscape. Follow the Common Elements listed on the property planning webpage for management practices associated with the targeted species or natural community.
- In addition to managing for aesthetics, follow the DNR State-Owned Islands Handbook guidelines for island classification and management. Island classification determination should be at the discretion of the property management team.

Prescriptions

- Use passive management to preserve aesthetic value and wildlife habitat. To the degree feasible and practicable, design and conduct vegetation and other land management activities, including practices listed in Common Elements for cover types, and

Common Elements

Apply Common Elements for General Property Management Practices.

Guidance for use of Common Elements can be found on page 11. If management described in this plan conflicts with Common Elements, apply the management described in this document.



prescribed burning, to maintain and enhance an attractive, natural appearing landscape when passive management is ineffective.

- Following a catastrophic event (e.g. wind, fire, ice damage, forest pests), salvage may be completed after consultation and direction by a team consisting of representatives from wildlife, fisheries, Natural Heritage Conservation and forestry programs along with the property manager. Salvage operations should focus on safety and meeting overall vegetation management goals.
- Allow primitive campsite and canoe/kayak landing development if the state-owned island classification determined by the property management team under DNR State-Owned Island Handbook guidelines permits. Follow the standards described in the State-Owned Islands Handbook for primitive campsite and signage development standards.

STATE PUBLIC ACCESS SITES

Northwest Sands state public access sites offer access to waterbodies and may contain back-in or carry-in boat access; or they may be undeveloped. As required by NR 1.90, Wis Adm. Code, it is the goal of the State of Wisconsin to provide, maintain and improve access to Wisconsin's navigable lakes, rivers, and streams for the public. All properties designated as state public access sites in the Northwest Sands, as shown in Table 2.24, will follow the management described in this section. All property names shown in Table 2.24 are proposed names. For current names, please see Table B.2. Any property designated as a state public access site during the period this plan is in effect will also follow the management described in this section.

Table 2.24. Northwest Sands State Public Access Sites

Property Name	County
Bardon L. Whitefish Public Access	Douglas
Bass Lake State Public Access	Burnett
Beartrack Lake State Public Access	Burnett
Big Doctor Lake State Public Access	Burnett
Big Sand Lake State Public Access	Burnett
Clam Lake - Cumberland Point State Public Access	Burnett
Green Lake State Public Access	Burnett
Hayward Lake State Public Access	Sawyer
Leader Lake State Public Access	Burnett
Long Lake State Public Access	Burnett
McKinley Lake State Public Access	Washburn
Namekagon River - Trails End Road State Public Access	Washburn
Namekagon River – Trego Lake State Public Access	Washburn
Sissabagama Lake State Public Access	Sawyer
Spooner Lake State Public Access	Washburn
Upper Ox Creek State Public Access	Douglas
Viola Lake State Public Access	Burnett
Yellow River - Conners Bridge State Public Access	Burnett

Yellow River - Highway 35 State Public Access

Burnett

Special Attributes

Beartrack Lake State Public Access site is located within the Namekagon Barrens Conservation Opportunity Area. Upper Ox Creek State Public Access is located within the Douglas and Bayfield County Barrens. Hayward Lake, Whitefish Lake,

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

NR 44 Land Management Classification

All state public access sites in the region are classified as Recreation Management Areas: Type 4 as shown in the online DNR Property Planning Viewer (see Table A.1).

Management Objectives

- Provide, maintain, and improve access for the public to the region's waterways appropriate to each water's ability to support such access.
- Alone or in cooperation with local government, exercise DNR management and regulatory responsibilities to assure levels and types of use of navigable waters are consistent with protection of public health, safety and welfare, including protection of natural resources.

Management Prescriptions

- Maintain or improve current surfacing of boat launches as appropriate for use level and waterbody capacity.
- Manage upland vegetation to minimize erosion, minimize run-off and control exotic invasive species, while providing the best public access.
- Implement aquatic and terrestrial invasive species educational and control efforts as needed.

Common Elements

Apply General Property Management Practices and Recreation Facilities and their Management Common Elements.

Apply Habitats and their Management Common Elements. Use land cover data and Table 2.2 to determine applicable Common Elements. Management described in Common Elements, which conflicts with management described in this document is not applicable.

Guidance for use of Common Elements can be found on page 11. If management described in this plan conflicts with Common Elements, apply the management described in this document.

ERNIE SWIFT YOUTH CAMP

PROPERTY OVERVIEW

Ernie Swift Youth Camp is a 94-acre property owned by DNR on the shores of Minong Flowage in Washburn County. The property is leased by a private camp operator for the purposes of managing and operating the Ernie Swift Youth Camp. Originally founded in 1964 by the department, today the camp is operated to serve the needs of the public in the areas of outdoor natural resources education, outdoor skill development and work experience.

State Ownership:	94 acres
Fee Title:	94 acres
Easement:	0 acres

RECREATION AND PUBLIC ACCESS FACILITIES

The majority of the property is closed to general public access except for passage through the property on Flowage Road, a non-DNR public road. A developed, boat access site on the property is accessed via Flowage Road and also open to use by the general public.

Three primitive, closed DNR roads are located on the property. They are used to access Ernie Swift Youth Camp buildings. At least 16 buildings, primarily camper cabins, are currently located on the site. Other recreation facilities associated with the operation of a nature camp are also present. All facilities, except for the boat access site, are maintained by the camp operators.

LAND COVER

Outside of the developed areas, the property is primarily covered in upland deciduous forest types with small areas of open wetland marsh, inland lake beach and open water also present.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Ernie Swift Youth Camp is composed of one special management area as shown in the online DNR Property Planning Viewer (Table A.1). Apply objectives and prescriptions in this section.

Objectives

- Manage the property as youth nature education and recreation camp, through collaboration with external partners.

Prescriptions

- While the property is leased to Ernie Swift Youth Camp operators, lessee manages resources and facilities, with the exception of the boat access site near Flowage Road, as necessary to maintain a youth camp while in compliance with lease conditions.
- If the lease is ended during the time this plan is in effect and DNR resumes management of the property, determine cover types and apply Common Elements for Habitats and their Management for the cover types found on the property. Apply Common Elements for General Property Management and Recreation Facilities and their Management. Facility maintenance and public access levels will be determined by the Bureau of Parks and Recreation Management at the time the lease ends.



- Maintain boat access site near Flowage Road in accordance with department design codes and Common Elements for general property administration.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROPERTIES

DNR owns several properties in the Northwest Sands that help the department carry out its mission but are primarily operational and administrative support in their function. These properties are list in Table 2.25. This regional master plan does not describe specific operations or development of these properties. Operational and administrative properties are managed under other state administrative processes.

Table 2.25. Northwest Sands Administrative Properties

Property	Deed Acres	Map
Barnes Ranger Station	10	DNR & Other Lands
Brule Tower Site	1	DNR & Other Lands
Governor Tommy G. Thompson Hatchery	103	DNR & Other Lands
Hayward Nursery	137	DNR & Other Lands

Land Management Classifications

The properties in Table 2.25 are designated as Special Management Areas.

Management

- Apply Common Elements for General Property Administration.
- Provide and maintain areas and facilities for the administration and maintenance support of the properties according to program specific policies.

STATE TRAILS

Outside of natural feature trails, such as the North Country Trail, the state's trail network mainly consists of rail-based trails and utility corridors that occasionally employ road connections. State trails located on converted rail corridors in the planning region include the Wild Rivers and Gandy Dancer trails. These state trails are developed and operated through a partnership model or cooperative management agreement with local units of government. In this partnership model, the department typically holds the land ownership or trail interest rights, while the partners develop, maintain, and operate the trail. The managing partner conducts the planning processes to determine which recreational uses will be allowed on the property based on the physical characteristics of the trail, compatibility of users, local ordinances, and public input. Trail management is not discussed in this plan because the trails are managed and operated by local units of government through agreements with DNR.

The Wisconsin 2003 State Trails Network Plan, which was approved by the Natural Resources Board, provides authorization for the DNR to pursue acquisition of any abandoned rail grade or other corridor identified in the 2003 plan. As a result, corridor extensions and connections are authorized through that plan rather than through individual master plans.

CHANGES TO EXISTING NR 44 PLANS

Existing NR 44 plans were evaluated during this planning process for potential minor plan alterations needed to meet existing usage demands on department properties. One minor change to the Governor Knowles State Forest Master Plan was identified and is described below.

GOVERNOR KNOWLES STATE FOREST

Reservable Campsites

The Governor Knowles State Forest (GKSF) Master Plan (WDNR, 2012) sets limits on the number of campsites that can be made reservable through the statewide campsite reservation system within certain campgrounds at the property. Property managers have noticed increased interest in these sites. To better accommodate changing visitor needs, this plan proposes to change several management prescriptions.

Proposed Changes to the Governor Knowles State Forest Master Plan

The second management prescription for the Trade River Equestrian Campground – Modern on page 89 of the Governor Knowles State Forest Master Plan reads:

“Designate up to 35% of the campsites as reservable and place on the statewide campsite reservation system”

The second management prescription in the St. Croix Family Campground – Modern section on page 90 of the Governor Knowles State Forest Master Plan reads:

“Designate up to 50% of the campsites as reservable and place on the statewide campsite reservation system”

This plan proposes changing both prescriptions noted in this section regarding reservable campsites to read:

“Campsites may be designated and placed on the statewide campsite reservation system up to levels allowed under relevant state statutes, administrative codes and department policy”

Applying Land Management Classifications to Undesignated Acres

Land Management Classifications (LMCs) in Governor Knowles State Forest (GKSF) were established under the property’s master plan (WDNR, 2012). The LMCs established in the GKSF master plan covered only DNR managed land at the time of the plan’s approval. Since 2012, DNR has both acquired new lands within the GKSF project boundary and redesignated lands to GKSF from the adjacent Crex Meadows Wildlife Area. These lands were not classified under a LMC at the time of acquisition or redesignation and should be now. Additionally, the Northwest Lowlands Regional Master Plan proposes redesignating the St. Croix River State Public Access in that plan to GKSF. This public access site also requires a LMC be assigned.

Proposed Changes to the Governor Knowles State Forest Master Plan

The four areas of Governor Knowles State Forest shown on Map H are proposed to be assigned to existing forest production management areas:



Map H Area 1: Bluff Lake Forest Production Management Area

Area 1 consists of a parcel acquired in 2014 and the St. Croix River Public Access Site, which is proposed to be redesignated to GKSF in the Northwest Lowlands Regional Master Plan. Combined, these two parcels will add approximately 187 acres to the Bluff Lake Forest Production Management Area.

Map H Areas 2, 3, 4: Sand Plain Forest Production Management Area

Areas 2 and 3 are adjacent to Crex Meadows Wildlife Area. These parcels were redesignated to GKSF from Crex Meadows Wildlife Area through the Glacial Lake Grantsburg Property Group Master Plan (WDNR, 2016a). Together, Areas 2 and 3 will add 777 acres to the Sand Plain Forest Production Management Area.

Area 4 was acquired in 2012 and is in the southern portion of GKSF. This area is approximately 58 acres and will be added to the Sand Plain Forest Production Management Area.

UHRENHOLDT MEMORIAL DEMONSTRATION FOREST

The Uhrenholdt Memorial Demonstration Forest property master plan was approved as a Tier 3 management plan by the NRB in October 2014 (WDNR, 2014). The Tier 3 plan described management for the property in detail and noted the purpose of the property to demonstrate sustainable forest management and responsible stewardship while also using these lands as educational tools for students, professional foresters and non-industrial private forest landowners.

The Tier 3 plan did not assign a Land Management Classification (Section NR 44.06, Wis. Admin. Code). Upon approval of this regional master plan, Uhrenholdt Memorial Demonstration Forest will be classified as a Special Management Area; management of the property will continue to follow the approved Tier 3 plan.



REAL ESTATE SECTION

OVERVIEW

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (department) purchases land to manage and protect natural resources and to provide recreational opportunities to all residents and visitors to the State of Wisconsin. Through the land acquisition program, wetlands, forests, scenic areas, prairies, savannas, wildlife and fish habitat, rare species habitat, glacial features and other resources are being protected and managed.

The Real Estate Section within the department's Bureau of Facilities and Lands acquires land through fee title, easements, donations and leases. The section also conveys leases, easements, agreements and permits associated with land ownership. The section also manages the selling of land no longer necessary for the state's use for conservation purposes. It implements the payment in lieu of tax system (PILT), resolves trespass settlements and engages in other activities aimed at preparing the land for long-term public use and benefit.

REAL ESTATE MANAGEMENT AND MASTER PLANNING

Through master planning, the department's entire real estate portfolio is reviewed and analyzed. The topics listed below are all considered and reviewed during a planning process. This analysis allows the department to identify future real estate management goals, which are then included as a part of the master plan.

Land Acquisition

The department acquires lands under the authority of sec. 23.09(2)(d), Wis. Stats., from willing sellers. At times, it is in the best interest of the department and landowner for the department to acquire partial rights to a property (easement or lease). Acquisition priorities are identified in the master plan and are, in most cases, visually represented through the department's project boundaries.

Acquisitions for department properties vary from year to year and are based on several factors, such as resource management or recreation needs and the availability of funding, which may be from a variety of sources.

Land Sales

The department's Natural Resources Board (NRB), at times, may sell lands and structures under its jurisdiction, except central or district office facilities, when the NRB determines that those lands are no longer necessary for the state's use for conservation purposes (sec. 23.15 (1), Wis. Stats.). Upon receiving payment, the department deposits the funds into the conservation fund to be used exclusively for the purpose of purchasing other land for the creating and establishing of public hunting and fishing grounds, wildlife and fish refuges, state parks, and/or land in the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway (sec. 23.15 (4), Wis. Stats.).

Conveyed Easements, Access Permits, and Land Use Agreements

Conveyed Easements provide access across state property for utilities, town roads, county highways and in some cases individuals. Easements are permanent and cannot be changed by a master plan. Access Permits provide access across state property to private land owners adjacent to department lands. Land use agreements provide for a variety of uses on a department property that are consistent with the property's master plan, such as bike trails.



Payment in Lieu of Taxes

The department makes an annual payment in lieu of taxes (PILT) under ss. 70.113 and 70.114, Wis. Stats., to the appropriate municipality for all property it owns in fee title. More detailed information on how the department pays PILT may be at dnr.wi.gov by searching for the keyword "PILT".

Project Boundaries and Stream Bank Easement (SBE) Eligible Streams

Project boundaries and stream bank easement eligible streams are established areas on the landscape, created by a Natural Resources Board (NRB) action, as a preferred area where the department may acquire land. Through the planning process, changes on the landscape and changing recreation and resource needs are identified. These factors may lead to proposed changes to the boundary or SBES in a master plan, under the authority in Manual Code (MC) 2212, MC 2105.2, MC 2210.03, sec. 23.094, Wis. Stats and s. NR 51.60 Admin. Code.

Acquisition Authority

An acquisition authority is created by the NRB, which allows the department to acquire land for a specific purpose/land use. An example of this is the authority to purchase land for Devil's Lake State Park. This authority identifies a targeted area on the landscape within a project boundary to be used for state park purposes. Another example is the Statewide Public Access authority, which allows the department to acquire lands adjacent to rivers and lakes to provide public access to waterways. This authority does not have specific project boundaries; it is statewide in nature. As such, it allows lands to be acquired along these water features anywhere in the state. New, or changes to, existing acquisition authorities are sometimes proposed as a part of the master plan.

Acquisition Goal

When an acquisition authority is created by the NRB, an acquisition acreage goal for that authority is also established. This is the total acreage that can be acquired by the department under that specific acquisition authority. Acquisition goal changes are sometimes proposed as a part of the master plan.

Property Naming

Under the authority of MC 2281.1, the NRB has the authority to name a property that has not been expressly named by the Legislature. Property name changes are sometimes proposed during a master plan.

Property Re-designation

Under the authority of s. NR 1.415, Wis. Admin. Code, the NRB has the authority to periodically review land use designations (acquisition authorities) to determine whether a re-designation will secure better management. Property re-designations are sometimes proposed during a master plan.

REAL ESTATE ACTIONS

Clean up of Project Boundaries

Project boundaries in the past may have been developed using parcel maps or aerial photographs rather than the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) tools that exist today. This GIS technology has improved in accuracy over time. In some cases, it is clear the original intent of the project was to follow the nearest river, road or existing department ownership, but because of changing technology, a boundary line may be slightly "off" from these features. With NRB approval of this plan, where applicable, some project boundaries included in this master plan



will be snapped to or aligned to better define these boundaries. These snapped areas are very small in size, usually less than 0.1 acres, or are snapped a few feet to the nearest feature.

Statewide Scattered Acquisition Property Naming

The Northwest Sands Master Plan includes unnamed properties purchased under a variety of statewide scattered acquisition authorities (Extensive Wildlife, Scattered Wildlife, etc.). These parcels do not currently have a NRB approved (official) local name identifying them. The master plan team used MC 2281.1 as well as internal draft naming guidance to propose names for these properties. Those naming and property grouping recommendations are included as a part of this plan and are described, as applicable, below, as well as in Appendix B and map series AA-CI.

Property Specific Real Estate Actions

Bean Brook Fishery Area (Map B)

- Expand the project boundary by 190.68 acres to encompass lands already owned by the department.
 - One expansion area is around a Statewide Spring Ponds parcel. That parcel is proposed to be re-designated to the Bean Brook Fishery Area (see below).
 - One expansion area is around the existing Mackey Creek Fishery Area and additional lands along Mackey Creek. Mackey Creek Fishery Area will be retired, and existing easements incorporated into Bean Brook Fishery Area.
- Expand the project boundary by 1157.85 acres around lands not currently owned by the department.
- Contract the project boundary by 19.08 acres.
 - Net expansion of 1329.47 acres.
- Proposed increase of acquisition goal by 2775.8 acres.
- Transfer of 54 acres of acquisition goal to Bean Brook Fishery Area from Statewide Spring Ponds.
- Transfer of 8.17 acres of acquisition goal to Bean Brook Fishery Area from Mackey Creek Fishery Area.
- Net acquisition goal increase of 2837.97 acres.

The proposed boundary expansions and acquisition goal increase serve three purposes on Bean Brook. The additions either protect class-1 trout water, create a more defined boundary (easier for public use), or increase public access. These three benefits will make the whole property more beneficial for protecting natural resources and providing quality opportunities for the public to fish, hunt, and trap on the property. The expansion around Mackey Creek is primarily to allow for 66' wide easement acquisitions along this stretch of river. A total of 80 acres of acquisition goal has been added to Bean Brook Fishery Area to account for a small amount of fee simple acquisitions along Mackey Creek. This will provide flexibility for future acquisition in areas where easements acquisitions are not feasible. If this fee simple acquisition occurred, the project boundary would automatically snap around the acquired fee simple lands.

Mackay Creek is a quality cold-water stream with a naturally reproducing brook trout population in the upstream sections. Though listed a class-2 trout water, recent surveys show young brook trout present without stocking. This stream has limited public access and is in a mixed watershed with agriculture and forest. Though brook trout are found mostly upstream in the summer, they likely use the whole stream, overwintering in downstream



portions. Easements would create more public access while providing additional protection for this brook trout population.

Statewide Spring Ponds (Map B)

- Re-designate these parcels from Statewide Spring Ponds to Bean Brook Fishery Area.
- Transfer 54 acres of acquisition authority from Statewide Spring Ponds to Bean Brook Fishery Area.

This parcel is currently managed as a part of the larger Bean Brook Fishery Area and Mackey Creek Fishery Area complex. This proposal is considered a cleanup action to improve management.

Beaver Brook Wildlife Area (Map C-2)

- Expand the project boundary by 48.73 acres to encompass lands already owned by the department.
- Expand the project boundary by 444.53 acres around lands not currently owned by the department.
 - Net expansion of 493.26 acres.
- Increase acquisition goal by 608.82 acres.

Beaver Brook Wildlife Area (BBWA) is an extremely popular wildlife area for hunting, fishing and trapping, adjacent to the city of Spooner. The boundary expansion proposal is to capture inholdings in the project, improving public access and habitat management opportunities on the property. The acquisition goal increase is to equal the proposed project boundary acreage.

Brule River State Forest (Map D)

- Expand the project boundary by 39.81 acres to encompass lands already owned by the department.
 - Net expansion of 39.81 acres.

The project boundary expansion is considered a cleanup action since the parcel was acquired for and is currently managed as a part of the larger Brule River State Forest. It is also adjacent to a department forest legacy easement to the north and west.

Clam River Fishery Area (Map E)

- Expand the project boundary by 61.19 acres to encompass lands already owned by the department.
- Expand the project boundary by 1266.42 acres around lands not currently owned by the department.
 - Net expansion of 1327.61 acres.
- Increase the acquisition goal by 2674.25 to match the full acreage of the project boundary.

Project boundary expansions and acquisition goal increase are to include department owned lands and to provide additional protection for Clam River, which is classified Trout waters, with the north fork having portions of class 1, 2 and 3 and the south fork being all class 1 in the project boundary area. The expansions will also improve public access to the larger property and to Spencer Lake. This will provide additional opportunities for management along Clam River as well as recreational opportunities like fishing, hunting and trapping. The acquisition goal increase is to match the acquisition goal with the proposed project boundary acreage.

Clam Lake Wildlife Area (Map F)

- Expand the project boundary by 845.60 acres around lands not currently owned by the department.



- Net expansion of 845.60 acres.
- Proposed increase of acquisition goal by 863.34 acres
- Transfer of 10.32 acres to Clam Lake Wildlife Area from REM-Clam Lake
 - Net acquisition goal increase of 873.66

The proposed project boundary expansions are to include more shoreline on Clam Lake, which is rich with wild rice, fish and waterfowl and provides excellent waterfowl hunting opportunities. The expanded boundary offers excellent wetland shores perfect for waterfowl hunting. It also would provide road access to an existing department owned parcel. Additionally, it would offer wilderness upland hunting opportunities such as deer, grouse and woodcock just outside the city. Being situated within two miles of Siren and state highways 70 and 53 and only one and one-half hours from the Twin Cities, it would be easily accessed by the public for recreation. Several private landowners directly east and adjacent to the Clam Lake WA, river and lake are interested in selling to the department. A boundary expansion could significantly increase the value of the property by protecting these important resources and allow access to both sides of the Clam River. The increase in acquisition goal is to match the proposed project boundary acreage.

REM-Clam Lake (Map F)

- Establish 10.32 acres of acquisition goal for REM-Clam Lake to account for what is currently owned.
- Re-designate this parcel from REM-Clam Lake to Clam Lake Wildlife Area.
- Transfer the newly established 10.32 acres of acquisition goal from REM-Clam Lake to Clam Lake Wildlife Area.

The REM-Clam Lake acquisition authority does not have any acquisition goal established. For cleanup and accounting purposes, the plan recommends establishing a goal of 10.32 acres to account for the total acres owned for REM-Clam Lake. Then to transfer that goal amount to Clam Lake Wildlife Area, since the parcel will be re-designated as Clam Lake Wildlife Area. The parcel currently falls within the Clam Lake Wildlife Area project boundary and is being managed as a part of that larger project. This re-designation and acquisition goal transfer is considered a cleanup action.

State Owned Islands – Proposed Name State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Clam Lake – Island No. 1 (Map F)

- Establish an official local name of State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Clam Lake – Island No. 1 for these parcels.

This parcel was transferred from the federal government to the department for the purposes of forest preservation. Therefore, the parcel will remain designated as a forestry, state owned island parcel. But will remain in the larger Clam Lake Wildlife Area project boundary. There is joint management between forestry and wildlife on this island and the public views the island as a part of the wildlife area. The name of State-Owned Islands – Burnett County – Clam Lake – Island No. 1 is the naming structure utilized within Forestry's State-Owned Islands Handbook. The use of the County and lake name are locally recognized identifiers for the parcel.

Fish Lake Wildlife Area (Map G)

- Re-designate an approximate 0.18-acre parcel from Fish Lake Wildlife Area to Governor Knowles State Forest.



This re-designation is considered a cleanup action since this parcel currently falls within the Governor Knowles State Forest project boundary and is being managed as a part of the State Forest and not the Wildlife Area.

Mackey Creek Fishery Area (Map I)

- Propose to combine this project with Bean Brook Fishery Area and retire the Mackey Creek Fishery Area.
- The existing acquisition goal for this property will be transferred to the Bean Brook Fishery Area.
- Propose to re-designate Mackey Creek Fishery Area easements to the Bean Brook Fishery Area.

The Mackey Creek Fishery Area is comprised of 66' wide easements. The Fisheries program recommends incorporating Mackey Creek into the Bean Brook Fishery Area, with the goal of targeting easement acquisition for this area. Combining these two projects is considered a cleanup action and will allow for clarity in management and the public in finding and utilizing the property.

McDermott Brook Fishery Area (Map J)

- Expand the project boundary by 16.74 acres to encompass lands already owned by the department.
 - This expansion includes lands being re-designated from REM-McDermott Creek to McDermott Brook Fishery Area.
 - Net expansion of 16.74 acres.
- Propose increase of the acquisition goal by 44.97 acres.
- Transfer of 1.03 acres of acquisition goal to McDermott Brook Fishery Area to REM-McDermott Creek.
 - Net acquisition goal increase of 46 acres.

The parcel being proposed to be brought into the project boundary was identified as an important parcel for the department to retain during the Act 20 lands sales evaluation of properties falling outside project boundaries, which is why it is being proposed to be brought into the boundary. The acquisition goal increase is considered a cleanup action for accounting purposes, to include lands already owned. The acquisition goal is currently less than what the department owns for the project.

REM-McDermott Creek (Map J)

- Re-designate this parcel from REM-McDermott Creek to McDermott Brook Fishery Area.

This is considered a cleanup action. This easement providing access to McDermott Creek is managed and considered to be a part of the larger McDermott Brook Fishery Area.

McKenzie Creek Fishery Area (Map K)

- Expand the project boundary by 80.50 acres to encompass lands already owned by the department.
 - This expansion includes lands being re-designated from Statewide Spring Ponds to McKenzie Creek Fishery Area.
 - Net expansion of 80.50 acres.
- Proposed increase of acquisition goal by 13 acres.
- Transfer of 80 acres of acquisition goal to McKenzie Creek Fishery Area from Statewide Spring Ponds.
 - Net acquisition goal increase of 93 acres.



The project boundary expansion and acquisition goal increase are considered cleanup actions for accounting purposes. The acquisition goal is currently less than what the department owns for the project

Statewide Spring Ponds (Map K)

- Re-designate these parcels from Statewide Spring Ponds to McKenzie Creek Fishery Area.
- Transfer 80 acres of acquisition authority from Statewide Spring Ponds to McKenzie Creek Fishery Area.

This parcel is currently managed as a part of the larger McKenzie Creek Fishery Area. This proposal is considered a cleanup action to improve management.

Namekagon River Fishery Area (Map M)

- Re-designate a parcel from Namekagon River Fishery Area to Big Brook Fishery Area.
- Note: Big Brook Fishery Area is not being actively planned with the Northwest Sands Ecological Landscape. It is included in this section to document the re-designation from Namekagon Fishery Area to Big Brook Fishery Area.

This parcel is located within the Big Brook Fishery Area project boundary, but the parcel is currently coded to the Namekagon River Fishery Area. This re-designation is considered a cleanup action to improve management, as the easement is already managed as a part of the Big Brook Fishery Area.

Whalen Creek Fishery Area (Map N)

- Expand the project boundary by 4.23 acres to encompass lands already owned by the department
 - This expansion includes lands being redesignated from Statewide Public Access to Whalen Creek Fishery Area.
- Expand the project boundary by 0.57 acres around lands not currently owned by the department.
 - Net expansion of 4.8 acres.

The project boundary expansion is considered a clean-up action, since this parcel is adjacent to the Whalen Creek Fishery Area, it is currently being managed as a part of the larger Fishery Area.

Statewide Public Access (Map N)

- Re-designate this parcel from Statewide Public Access to Whalen Creek Fishery Area.
- No change in acquisition goal.

The re-designation is a clean-up action, since this parcel is adjacent to the Whalen Creek Fishery Area, it is currently being managed as a part of the larger Fishery Area.

Amsterdam Sloughs Wildlife Area-Proposed Name Big Doctor Lake State Public Access (Map AA)

- Re-designate this parcel from Amsterdam Sloughs Wildlife Area to Statewide Public Access.
- Transfer 2.5 acres of acquisition authority from Amsterdam Sloughs Wildlife Area to Statewide Public Access
- Establish an official local name of Big Doctor Lake State Public Access.

This parcel was acquired with a larger property for the Amsterdam Sloughs Wildlife Area. This small property is being managed and used by the public as a public access site. The re-designation and acreage goal transfer are considered to be clean-up actions. The name of Big Doctor Lake is a locally recognized name for this parcel.



Forest Legacy Program – Proposed Name Brule St. Croix Legacy Forest (Map AB)

- Establish the official local name of Brule St. Croix Legacy Forest

The name of Brule St. Croix is a locally recognized name for this Forest Legacy easement. Since the acquisition of this easement, the department has referred to the easement area by this name.

LUP Grants – Proposed Name Goose Lake State Habitat Area (Map AC)

- Re-designate this parcel from LUP Grants to Habitat Area.
- Transfer 133.65 acres of acquisition goal from LUP Grants to Habitat Area.
- Establish the official local name of Goose Lake State Habitat Area.

The re-designation and acreage goal transfer are clean-up actions related to the naming of this property. The name of Goose Lake is a locally recognized name for this parcel.

Namekagon River Public Access – Proposed Name Namekagon River-Trego Lake State Public Access (Map AD)

- Re-designate this parcel from Namekagon River Public Access to Statewide Public Access.
- Establish the official local name of Namekagon River-Trego Lake State Public Access.
- Transfer 11.5 acres of acquisition goal from Namekagon River Public Access to Statewide Public Access.

This re-designation and acquisition goal transfer is considered a cleanup action related to the naming of this parcel. The reason for the name change is to be more descriptive by location that the parcel provides access both to Trego Lake and Namekagon River. Another parcel (listed below) is named Namekagon River State Public Access, which prompted the need for this parcel name to be more descriptive. The name of Namekagon River-Trego Lake is a locally recognized name for this parcel.

REM-Big Sissabagama – Proposed Name Sissabagama Lake State Public Access (Map AE)

- Establish 1.21 acres of acquisition goal for REM-Big Sissabagama to account for what is currently owned.
- Redesignate this parcel from REM-Big Sissabagama to Statewide Public Access.
- Transfer the newly established 1.21 acres of acquisition goal from REM-Big Sissabagama to Statewide Public Access.
- Establish an official local name of Sissabagama Lake State Public Access.

The REM-Big Sissabagama acquisition authority does not have any acquisition goal established. For cleanup and accounting purposes, the plan recommends establishing a goal of 1.21 acres to account for the total acres owned for REM-Big Sissabagama. Then to transfer that goal amount to Statewide Public Access, since the parcel will be redesignated as Statewide Public Access. The name of Sissabagama Lake is a locally recognized name for this parcel as it provides access to Sissabagama Lake.

REM-Clam River – Proposed Name Clam River State Habitat Area (Map AF)

- Establish 8 acres of acquisition goal for REM-Clam River to account for what is currently owned.
- Re-designate this parcel from REM-Clam River to Habitat Area.
- Transfer the newly established 8 acres of acquisition goal from REM-Clam Lake to Habitat Area.



- Establish the official local name of Clam River State Habitat Area.

The REM-Clam River acquisition authority does not have any acquisition goal established. For cleanup and accounting purposes, the plan recommends establishing a goal of 8 acres to account for the total acres owned for REM-Clam River. Then to transfer that goal amount to Habitat Area, since the parcel will be redesignated as Habitat Area. The name of Clam River is a locally recognized name for this parcel.

REM-Crystal Lake – Proposed Name Crystal Lake State Habitat Area (Map AG)

- Re-designate this parcel from REM-Crystal Lake to Habitat Area.
- Establish the official local name of Crystal Lake State Habitat Area.
- No change to acquisition goal.

Since this is an easement that is closed to public access, the name will be for efficiencies in internal department communications and IT systems. The name of Crystal Lake is a locally recognized name for this parcel. No acquisition goal updates are need since this is an easement closed to public access.

REM-Namekagon River – Proposed Name Namekagon River-Trails End Road State Public Access (Map AI)

- Establish 33.05 acres of acquisition goal for REM-Namekagon River to account for what is currently owned.
- Re-designate this parcel from REM-Namekagon River to Statewide Public Access.
- Transfer the newly established 33.05 acres of acquisition goal from REM-Namekagon River to Statewide Public Access.
- Establish the official local name of Namekagon River-Trails End Road State Public Access.

The REM-Namekagon River acquisition authority does not have any acquisition goal established. For cleanup and accounting purposes, the plan recommends establishing a goal of 33.05 acres to account for the total acres owned for REM-Namekagon River in this location. Then to transfer that goal amount to Statewide Public Access, since the parcel will be re-designated as Statewide Public Access. The name of Namekagon River-Trails End Road is a locally recognized name for this parcel.

REM-Namekagon River– Proposed Name Namekagon River State Habitat Area (Map AJ)

- Establish 108.67 acres of acquisition goal for REM-Namekagon River to account for what is currently owned.
- Re-designate this parcel from REM-Namekagon River to Habitat Area.
- Transfer the newly established 108.86 acres of acquisition goal from REM-Namekagon River to Habitat Area.
- Establish the official local name of Namekagon River State Habitat Area.

The REM-Namekagon River acquisition authority does not have any acquisition goal established. For cleanup and accounting purposes, the plan recommends establishing a goal of 108.67 acres to account for the total acres owned for REM-Namekagon in this location. Then to transfer that goal amount to Habitat Area, since the parcel will be re-designated as Habitat Area. The name of Namekagon River is a locally recognized name for this parcel.

REM-Sand Lake – Proposed Name Sand Lake State Habitat Area (Map AK)

- Establish 41.40 acres of acquisition goal for REM-Sand Lake to account for what is currently owned.



- Re-designate this parcel from REM-Sand Lake to Habitat Area.
- Transfer the newly established 41.40 acres of acquisition goal from REM-Sand Lake to Habitat Area.
- Establish the official local name of Sand Lake State Habitat Area.

The REM-Sand Lake acquisition authority does not have any acquisition goal established. For cleanup and accounting purposes, the plan recommends establishing a goal of 41.40 acres to account for the total acres owned for REM-Sand Lake. Then to transfer that goal amount to Habitat Area, since the parcel will be re-designated as Habitat Area. The name of Sand Lake is a locally recognized name for this parcel.

REM-Yellow River – Proposed Name Yellow River-Conners Bridge State Public Access (Map AL)

- Establish 2 acres of acquisition goal for REM-Yellow Lake to account for what is currently owned.
- Re-designate this parcel from REM-Yellow Lake to Statewide Public Access.
- Transfer the newly established 2 acres of acquisition goal from REM-Yellow Lake to Statewide Public Access.
- Establish the official local name of Yellow River-Conners Bridge State Public Access.

The REM-Yellow Lake acquisition authority does not have any acquisition goal established. For cleanup and accounting purposes, the plan recommends establishing a goal of 2 acres to account for the total acres owned for REM-Yellow Lake. Then to transfer that goal amount to Statewide Public Access, since the parcel will be re-designated as Statewide Public Access. The name of Yellow River-Conners Bridge is a locally recognized name for this parcel.

Scattered Forest Lands – Proposed Name Town of Gordon State Habitat Area (Map AM)

- Re-designate this parcel from Scattered Forest Lands to Habitat Area.
- Transfer 20 acres of acquisition goal from Scattered Forest Lands to Habitat Area.
- Establish the official local name of Town of Gordon State Habitat Area.
- Note: This parcel was identified during the Act 20 land sales process and approved to offer for sale to a government entity. The parcel has not been sold at this point.

The re-designation and acreage goal transfer are clean-up actions related to the naming of this property. The name of Town of Gordon is a locally recognized name for this parcel.

Scattered Forest Lands – Proposed Name Truck Lake State Habitat Area (Map AN)

- Re-designate this parcel from Scattered Forest Lands to Habitat Area.
- Transfer 39.54 acres of acquisition goal from Scattered Forest Lands to Habitat Area.
- Establish the official local name of Truck Lake State Habitat Area.

The re-designation and acreage goal transfer are clean-up actions related to the naming of this property. The name of Truck Lake is a locally recognized name for this parcel.

Scattered Forest Lands – Proposed Name Upper Twin Lake State Habitat Area (Map AO)

- Re-designate this parcel from Scattered Forest Lands to Habitat Area.
- Transfer 35.40 acres of acquisition goal from Scattered Forest Lands to Habitat Area.



- Establish the official local name of Upper Twin Lake State Habitat Area.

The re-designation and acreage goal transfer are clean-up actions related to the naming of this property. The name of Upper Twin Lake is a locally recognized name for this parcel.

State Owned Islands – Proposed Name State Owned Islands – Bayfield County – Half Moon Lake – Star Island (Map AP)

- Establish an official local name of State Owned Islands – Bayfield County – Half Moon Lake – Star Island for these parcels.

The name of State Owned Islands – Bayfield County – Half Moon Lake – Star Island is the naming structure utilized within Forestry’s State Owned Islands Handbook. The use of the County and lake name are locally recognized identifiers for the parcel.

State Owned Islands – Proposed Name State Owned Islands – Bayfield County – Lake Millicent– Francis Island (Map AQ)

- Establish an official local name of State Owned Islands – Bayfield County – Lake Millicent – Francis Island for these parcels.

The name of State Owned Islands – Bayfield County – Lake Millicent – Francis Island is the naming structure utilized within Forestry’s State Owned Islands Handbook. The use of the County and lake name are locally recognized identifiers for the parcel.

State Owned Islands – Proposed Name State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Bashaw Lake – Island No. 1 (Map AR)

- Establish an official local name of State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Bashaw Lake – Island No. 1 for these parcels.

The name of State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Bashaw Lake – Island No. 1 is the naming structure utilized within Forestry’s State Owned Islands Handbook. The use of the County and lake name are locally recognized identifiers for the parcel.

State Owned Islands – Proposed Name State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Birch Island Lake – Burnt Island (Map AS)

- Establish an official local name of State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Birch Island Lake – Burnt Island for these parcels.

The name of State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Birch Island Lake – Burnt Island is the naming structure utilized within Forestry’s State Owned Islands Handbook. The use of the County and lake name are locally recognized identifiers for the parcel.

State Owned Islands – Proposed Name State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Conners Lake – Island No. 1 (Map AT)

- Establish an official local name of State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Conners Lake – Island No. 1 for these parcels.

The name of State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Conners Lake – Island No. 1 is the naming structure utilized within Forestry’s State Owned Islands Handbook. The use of the County and lake name are locally recognized identifiers for the parcel.



State Owned Islands – Proposed Name State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Elbow Lake – Island No. 1 (Map AU)

- Establish an official local name of State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Elbow Lake – Island No. 1 for these parcels.

The name of State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Elbow Lake – Island No. 1 is the naming structure utilized within Forestry's State Owned Islands Handbook. The use of the County and lake name are locally recognized identifiers for the parcel.

State Owned Islands – Proposed Name State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Goose Lake – Island No. 1 (Map AV)

- Establish an official local name of State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Goose Lake – Island No. 1 for these parcels.

The name of State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Goose Lake – Island No. 1 is the naming structure utilized within Forestry's State Owned Islands Handbook. The use of the County and lake name are locally recognized identifiers for the parcel.

State Owned Islands – Proposed Name State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Green Lake – Island No. 1 (Map AW)

- Establish an official local name of State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Green Lake – Island No. 1 for these parcels.

The name of State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Green Lake – Island No. 1 is the naming structure utilized within Forestry's State-Owned Islands Handbook. The use of the County and lake name are locally recognized identifiers for the parcel.

State Owned Islands – Proposed Name State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Green Lake – Island No. 2 (Map AW)

- Establish an official local name of State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Green Lake – Island No. 2 for these parcels.

The name of State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Green Lake – Island No. 2 is the naming structure utilized within Forestry's State Owned Islands Handbook. The use of the County and lake name are locally recognized identifiers for the parcel.

State Owned Islands – Proposed Name State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Green Lake – Island No. 3 (Map AW)

- Establish an official local name of State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Green Lake – Island No. 3 for these parcels.

The name of State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Green Lake – Island No. 3 is the naming structure utilized within Forestry's State Owned Islands Handbook. The use of the County and lake name are locally recognized identifiers for the parcel.

State Owned Islands – Proposed Name State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Green Lake – Island No. 6 (Map AW)

- Establish an official local name of State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Green Lake – Island No. 6 for these parcels.

The name of State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Green Lake – Island No. 6 is the naming structure utilized within Forestry's State Owned Islands Handbook. The use of the County and lake name are locally recognized identifiers for the parcel.

State Owned Islands – Proposed Name State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Johnson Lake – Island No. 2 (Map AX)

- Establish an official local name of State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Johnson Lake – Island No. 2 for these parcels.

The name of State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Johnson Lake – Island No. 2 is the naming structure utilized within Forestry's State Owned Islands Handbook. The use of the County and lake name are locally recognized identifiers for the parcel.

State Owned Islands – Proposed Name State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Johnson Lake – Island No. 3 (Map AX)

- Establish an official local name of State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Johnson Lake – Island No. 3 for these parcels.

The name of State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Johnson Lake – Island No. 3 is the naming structure utilized within Forestry's State Owned Islands Handbook. The use of the County and lake name are locally recognized identifiers for the parcel.

State Owned Islands – Proposed Name State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Johnson Lake – Island No. 4 (Map AX)

- Establish an official local name of State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Johnson Lake – Island No. 4 for these parcels.

The name of State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Johnson Lake – Island No. 4 is the naming structure utilized within Forestry's State Owned Islands Handbook. The use of the County and lake name are locally recognized identifiers for the parcel.

State Owned Islands – Proposed Name State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Johnson Lake – Island No. 5 (Map AX)

- Establish an official local name of State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Johnson Lake – Island No. 5 for these parcels.

The name of State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Johnson Lake – Island No. 5 is the naming structure utilized within Forestry's State Owned Islands Handbook. The use of the County and lake name are locally recognized identifiers for the parcel.



State Owned Islands – Proposed Name State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Lang Lake – Island No. 1 (Map AY)

- Establish an official local name of State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Lang Lake – Island No. 1 for these parcels.

The name of State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Lang Lake – Island No. 1 is the naming structure utilized within Forestry's State Owned Islands Handbook. The use of the County and lake name are locally recognized identifiers for the parcel.

State Owned Islands – Proposed Name State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Long Lake – Island No. 1 (Map AZ)

- Establish an official local name of State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Long Lake – Island No. 1 for these parcels.

The name of State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Long Lake – Island No. 1 is the naming structure utilized within Forestry's State Owned Islands Handbook. The use of the County and lake name are locally recognized identifiers for the parcel.

State Owned Islands – Proposed Name State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Long Lake – Island No. 2 (Map AZ)

- Establish an official local name of State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Long Lake – Island No. 2 for these parcels.

The name of State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Long Lake – Island No. 2 is the naming structure utilized within Forestry's State Owned Islands Handbook. The use of the County and lake name are locally recognized identifiers for the parcel.

State Owned Islands – Proposed Name State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Mud Lake – Island No. 1 (Map BA)

- Establish an official local name of State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Mud Lake – Island No. 1 for these parcels.

The name of State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Mud Lake – Island No. 1 is the naming structure utilized within Forestry's State Owned Islands Handbook. The use of the County and lake name are locally recognized identifiers for the parcel.

State Owned Islands – Proposed Name State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Myre Lake – Island No. 1 (Map BB)

- Establish an official local name of State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Myre Lake – Island No. 1 for these parcels.

The name of State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Myre Lake – Island No. 1 is the naming structure utilized within Forestry's State Owned Islands Handbook. The use of the County and lake name are locally recognized identifiers for the parcel.



State Owned Islands – Proposed Name State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Oak Lake – Island No. 1 (Map BC)

- Establish an official local name of State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Oak Lake – Island No. 1 for these parcels.

The name of State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Oak Lake – Island No. 1 is the naming structure utilized within Forestry's State Owned Islands Handbook. The use of the County and lake name are locally recognized identifiers for the parcel.

State Owned Islands – Proposed Name State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Point Lake – Island No. 4 (Map BD)

- Establish an official local name of State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Point Lake – Island No. 4 for these parcels.

The name of State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Point Lake – Island No. 4 is the naming structure utilized within Forestry's State Owned Islands Handbook. The use of the County and lake name are locally recognized identifiers for the parcel.

State Owned Islands – Proposed Name State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Point Lake – Island No. 5 (Map BD)

- Establish an official local name of State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Point Lake – Island No. 5 for these parcels.

The name of State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Point Lake – Island No. 5 is the naming structure utilized within Forestry's State Owned Islands Handbook. The use of the County and lake name are locally recognized identifiers for the parcel.

State Owned Islands – Proposed Name State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Tomoe Lake – Island No. 1 (Map BE)

- Establish an official local name of State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Tomoe Lake – Island No. 1 for these parcels.

The name of State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Tomoe Lake – Island No. 1 is the naming structure utilized within Forestry's State Owned Islands Handbook. The use of the County and lake name are locally recognized identifiers for the parcel.

State Owned Islands – Proposed Name State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Webb Lake – Island No. 1 (Map BF)

- Establish an official local name of State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Webb Lake – Island No. 1 for these parcels.

The name of State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Webb Lake – Island No. 1 is the naming structure utilized within Forestry's State Owned Islands Handbook. The use of the County and lake name are locally recognized identifiers for the parcel.

State Owned Islands – Proposed Name State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Wood Lake – Island No. 1 (Map BG)

- Establish an official local name of State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Wood Lake – Island No. 1 for these parcels.

The name of State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Wood Lake – Island No. 1 is the naming structure utilized within Forestry's State Owned Islands Handbook. The use of the County and lake name are locally recognized identifiers for the parcel.

State Owned Islands – Proposed Name State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Wood Lake – Island No. 2 (Map BG)

- Establish an official local name of State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Wood Lake – Island No. 2 for these parcels.

The name of State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Wood Lake – Island No. 2 is the naming structure utilized within Forestry's State Owned Islands Handbook. The use of the County and lake name are locally recognized identifiers for the parcel.

State Owned Islands – Proposed Name State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Wood Lake – Island No. 3 (Map BG)

- Establish an official local name of State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Wood Lake – Island No. 3 for these parcels.

The name of State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Wood Lake – Island No. 3 is the naming structure utilized within Forestry's State Owned Islands Handbook. The use of the County and lake name are locally recognized identifiers for the parcel.

State Owned Islands – Proposed Name State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Wood Lake – Island No. 4 (Map BG)

- Establish an official local name of State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Wood Lake – Island No. 4 for these parcels.

The name of State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Wood Lake – Island No. 4 is the naming structure utilized within Forestry's State Owned Islands Handbook. The use of the County and lake name are locally recognized identifiers for the parcel.

State Owned Islands – Proposed Name State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Wood Lake – Island No. 5 (Map BG)

- Establish an official local name of State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Wood Lake – Island No. 5 for these parcels.

The name of State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Wood Lake – Island No. 5 is the naming structure utilized within Forestry's State Owned Islands Handbook. The use of the County and lake name are locally recognized identifiers for the parcel.

State Owned Islands – Proposed Name State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Wood Lake – Island No. 6 (Map BG)

- Establish an official local name of State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Wood Lake – Island No. 6 for these parcels.

The name of State Owned Islands – Burnett County – Wood Lake – Island No. 6 is the naming structure utilized within Forestry's State Owned Islands Handbook. The use of the County and lake name are locally recognized identifiers for the parcel.

State Owned Islands – Proposed Name State Owned Islands – Douglas County – Murray Lake – Island No. 1 (Map BH)

- Establish an official local name of State Owned Islands – Douglas County – Murray Lake – Island No. 1 for these parcels.

The name of State Owned Islands – Douglas County – Murray Lake – Island No. 1 is the naming structure utilized within Forestry's State Owned Islands Handbook. The use of the County and lake name are locally recognized identifiers for the parcel.

State Owned Islands – Proposed Name State Owned Islands – Douglas County – Muskrat Lake – Island No. 1 (Map BI)

- Establish an official local name of State Owned Islands – Douglas County – Muskrat Lake – Island No. 1 for these parcels.

The name of State Owned Islands – Douglas County – Muskrat Lake – Island No. 1 is the naming structure utilized within Forestry's State Owned Islands Handbook. The use of the County and lake name are locally recognized identifiers for the parcel.

State Owned Islands – Proposed Name State Owned Islands – Sawyer County – Sissabagama Lake – Cowhorn (Map BJ)

- Establish an official local name of State Owned Islands – Sawyer County – Sissabagama Lake – Cowhorn for these parcels.

The name of State Owned Islands – Sawyer County – Sissabagama Lake – Cowhorn is the naming structure utilized within Forestry's State Owned Islands Handbook. The use of the County and lake name are locally recognized identifiers for the parcel.

State Owned Islands – Proposed Name State Owned Islands – Sawyer County – Sissabagama Lake – Island No. 1 (Map BJ)

- Establish an official local name of State Owned Islands – Sawyer County – Sissabagama Lake – Island No. 1 for these parcels.

The name of State Owned Islands – Sawyer County – Sissabagama Lake – Island No. 1 is the naming structure utilized within Forestry's State Owned Islands Handbook. The use of the County and lake name are locally recognized identifiers for the parcel.



State Owned Islands – Proposed Name State Owned Islands – Sawyer County – Sissabagama Lake – Island No. 2 (Map BJ)

- Establish an official local name of State Owned Islands – Sawyer County – Sissabagama Lake – Island No. 2 for these parcels.

The name of State Owned Islands – Sawyer County – Sissabagama Lake – Island No. 2 is the naming structure utilized within Forestry's State Owned Islands Handbook. The use of the County and lake name are locally recognized identifiers for the parcel.

State Owned Islands – Proposed Name State Owned Islands – Sawyer County – Sissabagama Lake – Sunnyside (Map BJ)

- Establish an official local name of State Owned Islands – Sawyer County – Sissabagama Lake – Sunnyside for these parcels.

The name of State Owned Islands – Sawyer County – Sissabagama Lake – Sunnyside is the naming structure utilized within Forestry's State Owned Islands Handbook. The use of the County and lake name are locally recognized identifiers for the parcel.

State Owned Islands – Proposed Name State Owned Islands – Washburn County – Cable Lake – Island No. 1 (Map BK)

- Establish an official local name of State Owned Islands – Washburn County – Cable Lake – Island No. 1 for these parcels.

The name of State Owned Islands – Douglas County – Washburn Lake – Island No. 1 is the naming structure utilized within Forestry's State Owned Islands Handbook. The use of the County and lake name are locally recognized identifiers for the parcel.

State Owned Islands – Proposed Name State Owned Islands – Washburn County – Dock Lake – Island No. 1 (Map BL)

- Establish an official local name of State Owned Islands – Washburn County – Dock Lake – Island No. 1 for these parcels.

The name of State Owned Islands – Washburn County – Dock Lake – Island No. 1 is the naming structure utilized within Forestry's State Owned Islands Handbook. The use of the County and lake name are locally recognized identifiers for the parcel.

State Owned Islands – Proposed Name State Owned Islands – Washburn County – Dock Lake – Island No. 2 (Map BL)

- Establish an official local name of State Owned Islands – Washburn County – Dock Lake – Island No. 2 for these parcels.

The name of State Owned Islands – Washburn County – Dock Lake – Island No. 2 is the naming structure utilized within Forestry's State Owned Islands Handbook. The use of the County and lake name are locally recognized identifiers for the parcel.



State Owned Islands – Proposed Name State Owned Islands – Washburn County – Ellsworth Lake – Island No. 1 (Map BM)

- Establish an official local name of State Owned Islands – Washburn County – Ellsworth Lake – Island No. 1 for these parcels.

The name of State Owned Islands – Washburn County – Ellsworth Lake – Island No. 1 is the naming structure utilized within Forestry's State Owned Islands Handbook. The use of the County and lake name are locally recognized identifiers for the parcel.

State Owned Islands – Proposed Name State Owned Islands – Washburn County – Island Lake – Half Moon (Map BN)

- Establish an official local name of State Owned Islands – Washburn County – Island Lake – Half Moon for these parcels.

The name of State Owned Islands – Washburn County – Island Lake – Half Moon is the naming structure utilized within Forestry's State Owned Islands Handbook. The use of the County and lake name are locally recognized identifiers for the parcel.

State Owned Islands – Proposed Name State Owned Islands – Washburn County – Lake Nancy – Island No. 1 (Map BO)

- Establish an official local name of State Owned Islands – Washburn County – Lake Nancy – Island No. 1 for these parcels.

The name of State Owned Islands – Washburn County – Lake Nancy – Island No. 1 is the naming structure utilized within Forestry's State Owned Islands Handbook. The use of the County and lake name are locally recognized identifiers for the parcel.

State Owned Islands – Proposed Name State Owned Islands – Washburn County – Lower Kimball Lake – Island No. 1 (Map BP)

- Establish an official local name of State Owned Islands – Washburn County – Lower Kimball Lake – Island No. 1 for these parcels.

The name of State Owned Islands – Washburn County – Lower Kimball Lake – Island No. 1 is the naming structure utilized within Forestry's State Owned Islands Handbook. The use of the County and lake name are locally recognized identifiers for the parcel.

State Owned Islands – Proposed Name State Owned Islands – Washburn County – Oak Lake – Island No. 1 (Map BQ)

- Establish an official local name of State Owned Islands – Washburn County – Oak Lake – Island No. 1 for these parcels.

The name of State Owned Islands – Washburn County – Oak Lake – Island No. 1 is the naming structure utilized within Forestry's State Owned Islands Handbook. The use of the County and lake name are locally recognized identifiers for the parcel.

Statewide Habitat Areas – Proposed Name Bass Lake State Public Access (Map BR)

- Re-designate this parcel from Statewide Habitat Areas to Statewide Public Access.



- Transfer 16.25 acres of acquisition goal from Statewide Habitat Areas to Statewide Public Access.
- Establish the official local name of Bass Lake State Public Access.

The re-designation and acreage goal transfer are clean-up actions related to the naming of this property. The name of Bass Lake is a locally recognized name for this parcel.

Statewide Habitat Areas – Proposed Name Green Lake State Habitat Area (Map BS)

- Re-designate this parcel from Statewide Habitat Areas to Habitat Area.
- Transfer 2.4 acres of acquisition goal from Statewide Habitat Area to Habitat Area.
- Establish the official local name of Green Lake State Habitat Area.

The re-designation and acreage goal transfer are clean-up actions related to the naming of this property. The name of Green Lake is a locally recognized name for this parcel.

Statewide Habitat Areas – Proposed Name Leader Lake State Public Access (Map BT)

- Re-designate this parcel from Statewide Habitat Areas to Statewide Public Access.
- Transfer 72.50 acres of acquisition goal from Statewide Habitat Area to Statewide Public Access.
- Establish the official local name of Leader Lake State Public Access.

The re-designation and acreage goal transfer are clean-up actions related to the naming of this property. The name of Leader Lake is a locally recognized name for this parcel, as it provides access to Leader Lake.

Statewide Habitat Areas – Proposed Name Yellow Lake State Habitat Area (Map BU)

- Re-designate this parcel from Statewide Habitat Areas to Habitat Area.
- Transfer 306.33 acres of acquisition goal from Statewide Habitat Areas to Habitat Area.
- Establish the official local name of Yellow Lake State Habitat Area.
- Focus efforts on Sturgeon easement acquisitions along the Yellow River under the Statewide Habitat Areas acquisition authority.

The re-designation and acreage goal transfer are clean-up actions related to the naming of this property. The name of Yellow Lake is a locally recognized name for this parcel. The Fisheries program is currently partnering with Sturgeon for Tomorrow and landowners in other areas of the state to acquire easements to enhance and protect Sturgeon spawning. The Fisheries program is recommending the acquisition of these easements from the existing fee simple ownership (Statewide Habitat Area - proposed Yellow Lake State Habitat Area) to Conner's Bridge Road along the Yellow River, under the existing authority of Statewide Habitat Areas. Minor, additional fee simple lands could be considered for acquisition adjacent to the existing Statewide Habitat Area (Proposed Yellow Lake State Habitat Area) under the Statewide Habitat Areas acquisition authority as opportunities arise that would further protect the Yellow River and enhance recreational opportunities for the public.

Statewide Public Access – Proposed Name Beartrack Lake State Public Access (Map BV)

- Establish the official local name of Beartrack Lake State Public Access.

The name of Beartrack Lake is a locally recognized name for this parcel, as the parcel provides access to Beartrack Lake.



Statewide Public Access – Proposed Name Big Sand Lake State Public Access (Map BW)

- Establish the official local name of Big Sand Lake State Public Access.

The name of Big Sand Lake is a locally recognized name for this parcel, as the parcel provides access to Big Sand Lake.

Statewide Public Access – Proposed Name Clam Lake-Cumberland Point State Public Access (Map BX)

- Establish the official local name of Clam Lake-Cumberland Point State Public Access.

The name of Clam Lake-Cumberland Point is a locally recognized name for this parcel, as the parcel provides access to Clam Lake.

Statewide Public Access – Proposed Name Green Lake State Public Access (Map BY)

- Establish the official local name of Green Lake State Public Access.

The name of Green Lake is a locally recognized name for this parcel, as it provides access to Green Lake.

Statewide Public Access – Proposed Name Hayward Lake State Public Access (Map BZ)

- Establish the official local name of Hayward Lake State Public Access.

The name of Hayward Lake is a locally recognized name for this easement parcel as it provides access to Hayward Lake.

Statewide Public Access – Proposed Name Long Lake State Public Access (Map CA)

- Establish the official local name of Long Lake State Public Access.

The name of Long Lake is a locally recognized name for this parcel, as it provides access to Long Lake.

Statewide Public Access – Proposed Name McKinley Lake State Public Access (Map CB)

- Establish the official local name of McKinley Lake State Public Access.

The name of McKinley Lake is a locally recognized name for this parcel, as it provides access to McKinley Lake.

Statewide Public Access – Proposed Name Spooner Lake State Habitat Area (Map CC)

- Re-designate this parcel from Statewide Public Access to Habitat Area.
- Transfer 0.95 acres of acquisition goal from Statewide Public Access to Habitat Area.
- Establish the official local name of Spooner Lake State Habitat Area.

The re-designation and acreage goal transfer are clean-up actions related to the naming of this property. The name of Spooner Lake is a locally recognized name for this parcel.

REM-Spooner Lake – Proposed Name Spooner Lake State Habitat Area (Map CC)

- Establish 64.50 acres of acquisition goal for REM-Spooner Lake to account for what is currently owned.
- Re-designate this parcel from REM-Spooner Lake to Habitat Area.
- Transfer the newly established 64.50 acres of acquisition goal from REM-Spooner Lake to Habitat Area.
- Establish the official local name of Spooner Lake State Habitat Area.



The REM-Spooner Lake acquisition authority does not have any acquisition goal established. For cleanup and accounting purposes, the plan recommends establishing a goal of 64.50 acres to account for the total acres owned for REM-Spooner Lake. Then to transfer that goal amount to Habitat Area, since the parcel will be re-designated as Habitat Area. The name of Spooner Lake is a locally recognized name for this parcel.

Statewide Public Access – Proposed Name Spooner Lake State Public Access (Map CD)

- Establish the official local name of Spooner Lake State Public Access.
- Find that this parcel is no longer necessary for the state's use for conservation purposes if offered for sale to the Town for use as parking for the existing public boat launch. The parcel would be deed restricted to require the land to be used for public access (to Spooner Lake) purposes in perpetuity.

This parcel currently has a parking lot on it, that is used for the adjacent Town public access to Spooner Lake. If offered for sale to the Town, the parcel would no longer be necessary for the state's use for conservation purposes. Spooner Lake is a locally recognized name for this parcel.

Statewide Public Access – Proposed Name Upper Ox Creek State Public Access (Map CE)

- Establish the official local name of Upper Ox Creek State Public Access.

The name of Upper Ox Creek is a locally recognized name for this parcel, as it provides access to Upper Ox Creek.

Statewide Public Access – Proposed Name Viola Lake State Public Access (Map CF)

- Establish the official local name of Viola Lake State Public Access.

The re-designation and acreage goal transfer are clean-up actions related to the naming of this property. The name of Viola Lake is a locally recognized name for this parcel.

Statewide Public Access – Proposed Name Yellow River-Highway 35 State Public Access (Map CG)

- Establish the official local name of Yellow River-Highway 35 State Public Access.

The name of Yellow River-Highway 35 is a locally recognized name for this parcel, as it provides access to the Yellow River.

Statewide Spring Ponds (Map CH)

- Re-designate this parcel from Statewide Spring Ponds to Brule River State Forest.
- Transfer 12.50 acres of acquisition goal from Statewide Spring Ponds to Brule River State Forest.

The re-designation and acreage goal transfer are clean-up actions, since this parcel is located within the Brule River State Forest project boundary. It is currently being managed as a part of the State Forest, with special management for the spring pond area. The spring pond itself is actually north of this property on lands currently designated as State Forest.

Statewide Spring Ponds – Proposed Name Tozer State Spring Ponds (Map CI)

- Establish the official local name of Tozer State Spring Ponds.

The name of Tozer is a locally recognized name for this parcel.

Hayward Nursery

- Increase the acquisition goal by 15.72 acres.



This acquisition goal increase is considered a cleanup action to account for all acres owned by the department for this project.

Ernie Swift Youth Camp

- Assign Parks as the administrative land owner of this property.

This property is currently coded as “other” in the departments IT systems. Parks is proposed to be assigned as the administrator of the property, as the Parks program already manages this property.

Flat Creek Wildlife Area

- Reduce the acquisition goal by 1.96 acres.

This reduction in acquisition goal is to match the amount of acreage of the project boundary to the allowed acquisition goal.

Chapter 3 : Regional and Property Analysis

The Regional and Property Analysis component of this plan describes the ecological, cultural, economic, and recreational context of the Northwest Sands region and the considerations for planning that arise from that context. Regional context characterizes property resources within the ecological landscape and highlights their degree of significance both regionally and locally. This analysis identifies significant ecological and recreational needs of the region, and potential social demands or constraints affecting these properties.

The regional analysis is a useful tool for evaluating the significance of each property in meeting the region's needs. The regional boundaries for this plan are based on the Northwest Sands Ecological Landscape. The analysis describes the existing natural resources, recreational, and socio-economic context of the Northwest Sands.

ECOLOGICAL LANDSCAPES OF WISCONSIN

The Ecological Landscapes of Wisconsin (WDNR, 2015a) is a reference book that delineates the 16 Ecological Landscapes of Wisconsin. Ecological landscapes are areas with similar ecology and management potential. Each landscape chapter within the book contains descriptions of ecological resources and socioeconomic condition descriptions of Wisconsin's role in sustaining these resources within regional and global perspectives and management opportunities best suited to the region. This analysis draws from Chapter 17 of The Ecological Landscapes of Wisconsin, which describes the Northwest Sands. Descriptions of natural resources, socio-economic characteristics and recreational resources for this region are provided in great detail in Chapter 17 of The Ecological Landscapes of Wisconsin. The entirety of this chapter is incorporated by reference for purposes of this planning document. All chapters of this reference compendium, including some that compare and contrast regional attributes, are accessible on the Wisconsin DNR website (dnr.wi.gov) keywords "Ecological Landscapes" then "Northwest Sands."

NORTHWEST SANDS

The Northwest Sands (NWS) region is 1,956 square miles predominantly in Douglas, Bayfield, Washburn and Burnett counties, but also encompassing small portions of Sawyer and Polk counties. Figure 1.1 shows the NWS landscape in relation to the other Ecological Landscapes of Wisconsin.

The Northwest Sands is a region of sands or loamy sands over deeper-lying strata of sand or sand and gravel. It is the most extensive and continuous xeric glacial outwash system in northern Wisconsin. A large outwash plain is present in the region, pitted with kettle lakes. Here lacustrine deposits of clay from Glacial Lake Grantsburg underlie both the Crex Meadows and Fish Lake wildlife areas, and are responsible for impeding drainage, leading to formation of their extensive wetlands. The other major geologic feature of the landscape, a spillway of Glacial Lake Duluth, is now occupied by the St. Croix and Bois Brule Rivers. Other major hydrologic features include the Namekagon, Yellow, and Totagatic rivers and springs and seepages, especially in the upper reaches of the Bois Brule. The region's climate is similar to that of other areas in northern Wisconsin, averaging 31.4 inches of rain and 61 inches of snow. The growing season is short, averaging 121 days per year.



ECOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS AND MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

This section summarizes the ecological characteristics and management opportunities that exist in the Northwest Sands. Information is sourced from numerous documents, primarily:

- The Ecological Landscapes of Wisconsin: an assessment of ecological resources and a guide to planning sustainable management (WDNR, 2015a)
- Rapid Ecological Assessments (O' Connor, Staffen, & Staffen, 2018)
- Wisconsin Wildlife Action Plan (WDNR, 2015c)

Wisconsin, particularly the Northwest Sands, has the most significant (and possibly the best) opportunity in North America to preserve, restore, and manage large scale oak/pine barrens communities. This fire-adapted savanna system typically occurs on sandy, glacial outwash soil, dominated by grasses, low-growing shrubs and trees, and scattered large trees (WDNR, 2015a). The Northwest Sands oak/pine barrens community extends from northern Polk County to southern Bayfield County and covers 1,900 square miles. It represents a rare, geographically restricted and globally imperiled habitat, with great species diversity. In North America, Pine Barrens exist primarily in the upper Midwest, especially in Wisconsin, Michigan, and Minnesota. Pine Barrens with similar vegetation in the northeastern United States are also globally rare but are composed of a different assemblage of species and completely lack the prairie flower and grass component present in Wisconsin barrens communities.

Magnificent vistas occur within a mosaic of wetlands (forested, shrub, and open), oak/pine barrens and great rivers. A prominent example for which this region is known, is a vast glacial lake, formed when the last advance of the Wisconsin glacier blocked the St. Croix River. After the ice dam melted, a series of shallow lakes and extensive marshes remained. This area contains some of the largest sedge marshes in the upper Midwest that provide critical open habitat for area-sensitive species. An impressive diversity of rare birds now exists due to the abundance of large, high-quality wetland habitats for which these properties are managed. Connection to open upland grasslands and barrens makes this one of the premiere open landscapes in the state for birds.

The St. Croix, Namekagon, Totogatic, Bois Brule, and Eau Claire rivers warrant special attention because of their excellent water quality, exceptional aquatic biota, recreational opportunities, and aesthetic features. The north-south orientation of the St. Croix and Bois Brule rivers, along with the generally unfragmented condition of the forests bordering these rivers, makes them highly significant to migratory birds and other species. The extensive white cedar swamp along the upper Bois Brule River is among Wisconsin's best examples of the community type. Excellent occurrences of alder thicket, springs and spring seeps, and spring ponds also occur along the upper Brule and other areas throughout the landscape and present additional management and protection opportunities.

The unique features and significant management opportunities noted in this section are associated with distinctive natural communities, aquatic features, and select habitats. This relationship is portrayed in Table 3.1 taken directly from The Ecological Landscapes of Wisconsin (WDNR, 2015a).

Table 3.1. Ecological Features and Associated Natural Communities, Aquatic Features, and Selected Habitats

Ecological Feature	Associated Natural Communities, Aquatic Features, and Selected Habitats
Pine-Oak Barrens	Pine Barrens Oak Barrens Sand Prairie Wet Meadow/Marsh Northern Sedge Meadow Surrogate Grasslands Seepage Lake/Pond
Northern Dry Forests	Northern Dry Forest Northern Dry-Mesic Forest
Wetlands	Alder Thicket Black Spruce Swamp Emergent Marsh Emergent Marsh – Wild Rice Floating-leaved Marsh Hardwood Swamp Northern Sedge Meadow Shrub-carr Submergent Marsh Tamarack (Poor) Swamp
River Corridors	Northern Wet Forest Northern Wet-Mesic Forest Forested Seep Northern Dry-mesic Forest Alder Thicket Coldwater Stream Coolwater Stream Warmwater River Warmwater Stream
Inland Lakes	Inland Beach Inland Lake: Seepage Lake, Drainage Lake Spring Pond Ephemeral Pond Impoundment
Miscellaneous natural features	Northern Mesic Forest Open Bog/Poor Fen Rare Species Populations

An “ecological feature” is a natural community or group of natural communities or other significant habitats that occur in close proximity and may be affected by similar natural disturbances or interdependent in some other way. Ecological features were defined as management opportunities because individual natural communities often occur as part of a continuum (e.g., prairie to savanna to woodland, or marsh to meadow to shrub swamp to wet forest) or characteristically occur within a group of interacting community types (e.g., lakes within a forested matrix) that for some purposes can more effectively be planned and managed together rather than as separate entities. This does not imply that management actions for the individual communities or habitats are the same. See Chapter 7, “Natural Communities, Aquatic Features, and Selected Habitats of Wisconsin,” for definitions of natural community types.

ECOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES – LANDSCAPE LEVEL

An ecological management opportunity refers to a chance to sustain or restore the environment in or to an ecologically beneficial state. Ecological Landscapes of Wisconsin (WDNR, 2015a) lists the following as outstanding opportunities for management within the Northwest Sands:

- The Northwest Sands is the best place in the Upper Midwest to manage for globally rare pine and oak barrens communities and the numerous rare species associated with them.
- Dry forests are abundant and offer excellent opportunities to manage for jack pine, red pine, scrub oak and their associates.
- At some locations, management of barrens and dry forests at larger scales should be possible.
- Managing dry forest to emulate landscape patterns and the age-class structure created by natural fire disturbance may help alleviate budworm outbreaks in jack pine forests.
- Some of Wisconsin's largest and least disturbed sedge meadows occur in the southwestern part of the Northwest Sands where they provide critical habitat for rare birds.
- Large marshes provide important habitat for migratory and resident birds and many other wetland inhabitants.
- The corridors of the St. Croix, Namekagon, Totogatic, and Bois Brule rivers merit special conservation consideration because of the diverse aquatic biota they support, the extensive intact associated riparian habitats, and their excellent water quality.
- Lakes are abundant in parts of the Northwest Sands Ecological Landscape.
- Soft-water seepage lakes provide high quality lacustrine and littoral zone habitats for specialists, including rarities.
- The Inland Beach community is well represented but under-surveyed here and needs more attention.
- Acid peatlands, especially black spruce swamps, occupy poorly drained kettle depressions in pitted outwash landforms.
- Dry-mesic forests of white pine - red pine - red oak are uncommon and offer old-growth management potential at scattered localities.

SOCIOECONOMIC AND CULTURAL CONTEXT OF THE NORTHWEST SANDS

Underlying socioeconomic and cultural contexts are important in understanding the needs of the public when planning the properties of the Northwest Sands. Due to the method by which economic and cultural data is collected and made available, the context given here is for the entirety of the primary counties intersected by the Northwest Sands Ecological Landscape, rather than for the landscape itself. The data for these counties (Douglas, Bayfield, Burnett, and Washburn) are derived from two sources: United States Census Bureau and “The Ecological Landscapes of Wisconsin.”

SOCIOECONOMIC CONTEXT

Population, Income, and Housing

As of 2010, the total population of Northwest Sands counties was 90,010 people at a density of approximately 20 people per square mile. This makes up 1.6% of the state’s population and is lower than the average population density statewide. The only urban center in the landscape is the City of Spooner (2016 population of 2,624) in Washburn County (United States Census Bureau, 2018). As of 2010, the population of Northwest Sands counties was slightly older than the rest of Wisconsin.

At 14.6 housing units per square mile, the housing density of the Northwest Sands is low compared to the state average of 48.5. Seasonal homes, however, are quite prevalent. These homes comprise 28.6% of the total housing stock in the Northwest Sands counties, compared to a 6.3% average statewide. Of the counties in the region, Douglas County has the lowest proportion of seasonal homes with 8.8%; the other Northwest Sands counties are above 35%. Per capita income is \$26,208 (WDNR, 2015a).

Economic Sectors

Government, tourism, health care, and retail are the largest sectors of employment within Northwest Sands counties with high levels of service jobs. Transportation and warehousing provide more jobs (as a percentage) in these counties than the sector does in the state as a whole. Other sectors in this category include: utilities, government, tourism-related, agriculture, fishing and hunting, retail trade, construction, and forest products and processing (WDNR, 2015a).

Land Use and Ownership

Ownership of land in the Northwest Sands is nearly evenly split between public and private, with 48.6% of lands being publicly owned. 76% of the land in the Northwest Sands is forested. Of the timberland present on the landscape, 52% is owned privately, 33% by state and local governments, and 15% by the federal government. For perspective, the portions of the Brule and Governor Knowles State Forests that fall within the Northwest Sands, make up the majority of state ownership at 36,900 acres (WDNR, 2015a)

CULTURAL CONTEXT

The middle to late-Woodland period is the first evident human habitation of the region. The Clam River peoples occupied northwestern Wisconsin and were primarily hunter-gatherers that relied on wild rice as an important part of their diet. The Northwest Sands properties are within the ceded territory of the Ojibwe Tribes. Native American tribes are independent, sovereign nations, as they were prior to the arrival of Europeans in North America. The Ojibwe Tribes ceded some lands in the northern one-third of Wisconsin to the United States Government in the

Treaties of 1837 and 1842. In those treaties, they reserved their rights to hunt, trap, fish and gather within various publicly-owned lands. Treaty rights are currently being exercised and implemented.

The mining booms that drew early European settlers to Wisconsin did not take place in the Northwest Sands. Today, the Northwest Sands is largely rural, with only Douglas County being classified as metropolitan.

OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL RESOURCES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF THE NORTHWEST SANDS

The NWS ecological landscape is rich in outdoor recreation activities. The landscape has a high percentage of forestland and the third highest surface water area of the ecological landscapes; creating an environment in which many different recreational opportunities can be pursued. 48.6% of the land is in some form of public ownership, allowing a great amount of space for recreation. This abundance and diversity of natural resources makes the Northwest Sands region a popular destination for people from around Wisconsin and the Midwest; especially the Twin Cities Metro Area of Minnesota.

Recreation along, on, and in Wisconsin's waters is important to the character and quality of life in the state and supports a vital tourism industry. In Burnett, Polk, Washburn and Barron counties this is especially true. Over 100,000 acres of lakes, 6,000 acres of flowages and 3,500 miles of inland shoreline, trout streams and canoe/kayak miles occur in these counties. The St. Croix National Scenic Riverway is a sizeable and significant river resource in Wisconsin. It crosses the Northwest Sands on its 154-mile path southward from the St. Croix Flowage, in Douglas County, to its confluence with the Mississippi River at the southern edge of Pierce County. The St. Croix River was designated as a National Scenic Riverway in 1968 for its remarkable scenic, recreational and geologic values. It is one of the last undisturbed, large floodplain rivers in the upper Mississippi River System. The riverway is a combination of natural and cultural resources and aesthetic and recreational values.

The recreational activities this planning process focused on are nature-based and motorized activities that generally take place in natural or undeveloped settings. The information summarized in this section and gathered during the public input process is used to determine how DNR properties, in conjunction with other public lands, can best meet the region's recreation needs. The purpose of the property and its natural resources are considered when developing the objectives and prescriptions that shape the recreation components of the master plan.

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE NORTHWEST SANDS

The following summarizes outdoor recreational activities that occur on department properties in the Northwest Sands. The information for these summaries is sourced from several documents, including:

- Ecological Landscapes of Wisconsin: an assessment of ecological resources and a guide to planning sustainable management (WDNR, 2015a)
- Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) (WDNR, 2018a)
- Wisconsin Land Legacy Report (Pohlman, Bartlett, Hanson III, Scott, & Thompson, 2006)
- Recreation Opportunity Analysis (ROA) for Great Northwest Region (WDNR, 2018b)

The regional master planning process is organized around the natural boundaries of ecological landscapes. However, the data and information sources used in examining the recreational resources often use political boundaries. The SCORP reports data for the entirety of Wisconsin. The recreation opportunity analysis for the Great Northwest region includes information for the counties of Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Polk, Rusk, and Sawyer. The Northwest Sands ecological landscape consists of portions of Bayfield, Washburn, Burnett, Sawyer, Douglas, and Polk counties. To the extent possible, this section addresses recreation opportunity in the NWS ecological landscape. When information is referring to a larger region that contains the NWS, it is noted as such. This section is organized by category of activity.



WATER-BASED ACTIVITIES

Fishing

Fishing is a popular activity in the Northwest Sands. The Great Northwest ROA (WDNR, 2018b) noted fishing from a boat and shore fishing as among the most popular activities for the region. Fishing is a major draw for people visiting the region; non-resident fishing licenses outpace any other fishing or hunting license type in the counties of the Northwest Sands. The array of water types, from flowages and natural lakes to small cold-water streams and large rivers, allows for all types of fishing in the NWS.

The department offers access through improved boat launches on many of its properties, and shore fishing is allowed on all department lands. The department has many fishery areas to protect the headwaters of streams and critical spawning habitat for fish. These areas are all open to shore fishing, but not all have boat access.

Canoeing/Kayaking

Canoeing and kayaking opportunities are plentiful within the region. High quality water resources and a network of glacial watersheds throughout northern Wisconsin provide a variety of paddling experiences. The St. Croix, Namekagon, Totogatic, Flambeau and Bois Brule rivers vary in character, size, flow, and surrounding vegetation and land forms creating a unique experience on each. Many department properties have canoe/kayak launches and several offer campsites that can only be accessed by paddling. Canoes and kayaks can be carried into waters from any department property.

Motorboating

The Great Northwest Recreation Opportunity Analysis reported motorboating to be an activity that people participate in at a higher rate in the region than other portions of Wisconsin. Standalone public access sites used by both motorboats and canoes/kayaks are present throughout the landscape. Other boat launches provide water access at many properties designated for other purposes. Waterbodies that are not adjacent to department properties or without DNR-provided access points often have access available through other entities.

TRAIL-BASED ACTIVITIES

Hiking, walking, or running on trails

Hiking or walking is the most popular recreational activity undertaken in Wisconsin (SCORP). Opportunities for hiking in the NWS include state and national trails, hunter walking trails, and numerous department roads. In total, nearly 2,900 miles of recreational trail exist in the Northwest Sands, all of which allow hiking. The North Country National Scenic Trail cuts through this region as part of its more than 4,000-mile journey from North Dakota's Lake Sakakawea State Park to Crown Point, New York and offers opportunities for day hiking trips or longer backpacking expeditions (WDNR, 2017). Other hiking areas offer many opportunities for short trips. All DNR lands, and most other public lands in the region, are open to hikers. However, the level of development of trails, if they exist, varies dramatically across properties.

Bicycling

Bicycling in the NWS is a diverse activity that encompasses road cycling, mountain/fat tire biking, and off-road trail riding. There are many bicycling opportunities on and off department properties in the NWS. All roads, except major highways, are open to bicycling and road cyclists readily take advantage of this opportunity. Bicycling opportunities exist at Amsterdam Sloughs Wildlife Area, Crex Meadows Wildlife Area, Fish Lake Wildlife Area, Governor Knowles



State Forest, and Brule River State Forest. Over 300 miles of biking trail network exists adjacent to the NWS, in the Chequamegon Area Mountain Biking Association (CAMBA) trail system.

Horseback Riding

Horseback riding occurs on both public and private lands in the Northwest Sands. Due to the skill needed and the cost to be involved, this is a specialized sport. The Great Northwest is not among the areas in the state where this activity is most popular. Of the 7% of respondents to the SCORP survey that indicated they participate in horseback riding, 55% indicated they do so only one or two times per year.

The Brule River State Forest, Governor Knowles State Forest, Washburn and Douglas County Forests offer horseback riding opportunities on designated trails. All department managed roads are open to horseback riding, and some township and county roads may also be open to horseback riding.

Cross-country skiing

The 61 inches of snow the NWS receives annually helps make cross-country skiing a popular activity in the region. Residents of the Great Northwest ROA region participate in cross-country skiing at a higher rate than other regions of the state. Cross-country skiing is allowed on all department properties, though most participants prefer groomed trails. Groomed trails are offered at Beaver Brook Wildlife Area, Governor Knowles State Forest and the Brule River State Forest.

Motorized trail activities

Motorized trail-based recreation covers four similar, but distinct, activities: snowmobiling, ATV/UTV riding, four-wheel drive (4WD) vehicle driving, and off-highway motorcycle riding. There are two-types of motorized access to department lands for these activities: access for street legal vehicles on roads maintained for public use, and trails and routes for motorized vehicles. Snowmobiles are somewhat unique in their seasonal nature and in that local and regional clubs maintain large networks of snowmobile trails that cross private lands. These regional trail networks usually use department lands primarily as connectors between long trail segments.

The Great Northwest region has the most existing opportunity for ATV/UTV riding compared to other recreational regions. However, there is little opportunity to expand beyond these opportunities. Motorized recreation opportunities already exist on several of the properties including Crex Meadows Wildlife Area, Fish Lake Wildlife Area, Sawyer Creek Fishery Area and the Wild Rivers State Trail. Bayfield and Douglas County Forests offer 152 miles of ATV trails combined and as well. ATVs are allowed on many town roads and street legal dual-sport motorcycles and 4WD vehicles are allowed on all department roads as well.

NON-TRAIL ACTIVITIES THAT TAKE PLACE ON DEPARTMENT PROPERTIES

Gathering Wild Edibles

Many Wisconsinites gather wild nuts, berries, plants, and mushrooms on public and private lands. In the SCORP survey, 37% of respondents indicated they gather wild edibles at some point during the year. All department properties are open to this activity.

Hunting and Trapping

Hunting and trapping are among Wisconsin's most cherished traditions and most department properties are open to hunting, except for designated areas closed to hunting for all or part of the year. Given the large amount of public land, there is a large amount of hunting opportunity in the NWS. Over 500,000 acres of lands available for public



hunting, trapping and fishing in the four-county region surrounding the properties of the Northwest Sands. Hunting is allowed on all undeveloped public property, private Managed Forest Law (MFL) land designated as open, industry owned forest lands in the region and other private lands. This includes the Lyme St. Croix Forest Company land, protected with a 67,000-acre conservation easement.

The department has launched recruitment, retention, and reactivation (R3) efforts to bring additional hunters into the activity. R3 is not a series of events or one-time activities meant to promote the sports of hunting and fishing, but rather an effort to continuously engage with and provide participants the opportunity to have high quality experiences while hunting and fishing. The master planning team sought to aid R3 efforts by creating a plan that, if properly implemented, ensures the department's properties can provide the high-quality experiences in hunting and fishing that keep participants in the sports. As the Great Northwest ROA noted, this is especially important in the Northwest Sands where hunting and fishing are already popular activities.

Wildlife Viewing, Outdoor Education and Interpretation

The Northwest Sands' rolling barrens, rivers, and forests have abundant wildlife and create excellent opportunities for wildlife viewing, nature photography, and outdoor education. There are opportunities to take part in nature-based education at many of the properties. Several of the properties have developed facilities specifically for wildlife viewing; including Crex Meadows and Namekagon Barrens wildlife areas where visitors can watch the courtship rituals of sharp-tailed grouse from blinds. The Northwest Sands is the best ecological landscape in Wisconsin for visitors to learn about the globally-important and fire-driven barrens ecosystem. Outdoor education and nature photography are facilitated by many DNR partners in the region.

Target Shooting – Archery and Firearms

Target shooting by archery or firearm is a popular activity in the Great Northwest Recreation Opportunity Analysis region, with survey respondents indicating they take part in the activity at rates higher than the state average. The Great Northwest ROA identified firearms target shooting as a medium future need and archery as a low future need. These activities are accommodated on non-department public and private lands in the region.

Camping

Camping takes place in a variety of settings in the Northwest Sands, from primitive sites that are accessible only by hiking and offer few accommodations outside of a fire ring; to well-developed accessible sites with electrical hookups. Camping is not allowed on every property. Governor Knowles and Brule River State Forests offer the full range of camping opportunities.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT IN THE NORTHWEST SANDS

The following information summarizes ecological and recreation considerations for planning and management in the Northwest Sands. This section is meant to be a summary of the type of information the department uses when making master planning decisions. Information is sourced from numerous documents, including:

- The Ecological Landscapes of Wisconsin: an assessment of ecological resources and a guide to planning sustainable management (WDNR 2015)
- Rapid Ecological Assessments (O' Connor, Staffen, & Staffen, 2018)
- Wisconsin Wildlife Action Plan (WDNR 2015)
- Terrestrial and Wetland Habitat Priorities
- Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) (WDNR, 2018a)
- Recreation Opportunity Analysis (ROA) for the Great Northwest Recreational Region (WDNR, 2018b)

The master planning process accounts for both ecological and recreation considerations. Though the two may seem distinct, they are intertwined as outdoor recreation opportunities are shaped by the ecological characteristics of a property. Thus, the ecological information presented here also influences recreation planning on DNR properties.

ECOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS – LANDSCAPE LEVEL

Pre-planning analysis revealed the following significant management opportunities for DNR properties within the Northwest Sands:

- Pine-Oak Barrens
- Dry Forests of jack pine, red pine and scrub oak
- Wetlands (forested, sedge meadow and marsh)
- Inland lakes (seepage lakes, drainage lakes, spring ponds, flowages)
- River Corridors (Bois Brule, St. Croix National Scenic Riverway, Namekagon, Totogatic Wild River)

Natural Communities and Priority Habitats on DNR managed properties

Natural communities and priority habitats are the bedrock ecological considerations for master planning. These define the other ecological resources that may be present on a property. In seeking to maximize habitat and wildlife benefits within the constraints of fiscal resources available, DNR created a list of priority habitats. The top-rated priority habitats for northern Wisconsin are listed in Table 3.2.

Chapter 3: Regional and Property Analysis

The natural communities that are present on a property influence its habitat types and often include more detailed land cover descriptions than those used in habitat type. The Wisconsin Wildlife Action Plan (WDNR, 2015c) and the Ecological Landscapes of Wisconsin (WDNR, 2015a) identify the following 35 natural communities for which there are “Major” or “Important” opportunities for protection, restoration, or management on DNR-managed properties in the Northwest Sands Ecological Landscape:

Alder Thicket	Large Lake--shallow, hard, seepage	Pine Barrens
Aspen-Birch Forest	Large Lake--shallow, soft, seepage	Poor Fen
Black Spruce Swamp	Muskeg	Riverine Impoundment
Coldwater streams	Northern Dry Forest	Small Lake - Other
Coolwater streams	Northern Dry-mesic Forest	Spring Pond, Lake - Spring
Emergent Marsh	Northern Hardwood Swamp	Springs and Spring Runs (Hard)
Emergent Marsh - Wild Rice	Northern Sedge Meadow	Springs and Spring Runs (Soft)
Floating-leaved Marsh	Northern Tamarack Swamp	Submergent Marsh
Inland Beach	Northern Wet Forest	Surrogate Grasslands
Lacustrine Mud Flat	Northern Wet-mesic Forest	Warmwater Rivers
Large Lake--deep, hard, seepage	Oak Barrens	Warmwater Streams
Large Lake--deep, soft and very soft, seepage	Open Bog	

Table 3.2. Northern Wisconsin DNR Priority Habitats

Terrestrial/Wetland	Aquatic
Deep marsh/shallow lakes (only those with wild rice opportunity)	Coldwater Streams
Great lakes dunes, wetlands, and shores	Large Lake – deep, soft, and very soft, seepage
Oak/pine barrens	Large Lake – deep, soft, drainage
Old Forests (natural origin pine, hemlock, cedar, northern hardwoods)	Large Lake – shallow, soft, drainage
Young forests	Lake Superior
	Spring Pond, lake – spring
	Springs and Spring Runs (hard)
	Springs and Spring Runs (soft)

SPECIES-SPECIFIC CONSIDERATIONS – LANDSCAPE LEVEL

Specific plant and animal species that inhabit the priority habitats and natural communities of the Northwest Sands were also considered in the planning process.

Game Species

Common game species in the area include black bear, Canada geese, ducks, ruffed grouse, white-tailed deer, wild turkey and woodcock. The deer populations in the Northwest Sands are large compared to populations prior to Euro-American settlement. Relatively mild winters have increased winter survival and allowed the deer herd to increase. When populations are high enough, limited sharp-tailed grouse hunting is allowed.

Bird Species - Resident and Migratory

The diversity of habitats on department properties in this region offer important resources for numerous bird groups. Both riparian and large emergent wetlands with their associated open water areas provide important foraging areas for migratory birds such as waterfowl, shorebirds, songbirds, and water birds. Emergent aquatic plants such as wild rice, bidens, hard and soft-stem bulrush, cattails, smartweed, and arrowheads are present in these wetlands. Open water areas teem of these wetlands with amphibians, and aquatic invertebrates; and mudflats with abundant invertebrates and insect larvae. These areas are important to sandhill cranes, evidenced by the more than 10,000 that stage in the region during fall migration. Other species that gather in large numbers are Canada geese, tundra and trumpeter swans. Migratory raptors use the open areas to hunt waterfowl, shorebirds, and other species.

Expanses of upland barrens communities provide nesting and foraging habitats for other migratory birds, including upland sandpipers, golden-winged warblers, and whip-poor-wills. Numerous birds from the arctic and boreal regions winter here, including golden eagle, short-eared owl, rough-legged hawk, northern hawk owl, northern shrike, snow bunting, and common redpoll. These birds depend on the vast grasslands and wetlands. Other wintering birds of conservation importance include Lapland longspurs, horned larks, and snow buntings.

The Wisconsin sharp-tailed grouse population is segregated into isolated subpopulations that are primarily associated with intensively-managed barrens on Crex Meadows, Namekagon Barrens, and Douglas County Wildlife Areas, with smaller remnant populations elsewhere. Opportunities exist to re-connect grouse subpopulations and ensure their presence into the future, by linking habitat areas that have become isolated and improving habitat quality. Ten Important Bird Areas are designated within or partially within this Ecological Landscape (Steele, 2007).

Considering Species of Greatest Conservation Need

The Wisconsin Wildlife Action Plan identifies ecological priorities within each Ecological Landscape. Priorities represent the natural communities in each Ecological Landscape that are most important to Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN). This concept is represented by the highlighted “priorities” section shown in the center of Figure 3.1. SGCN are native wildlife species with low or declining populations that are most at risk of no longer being a viable part of Wisconsin’s fauna. The center “priorities” can also be used to determine which natural communities provide the most habitat for SGCN and rare plants (Figure 3.2). For

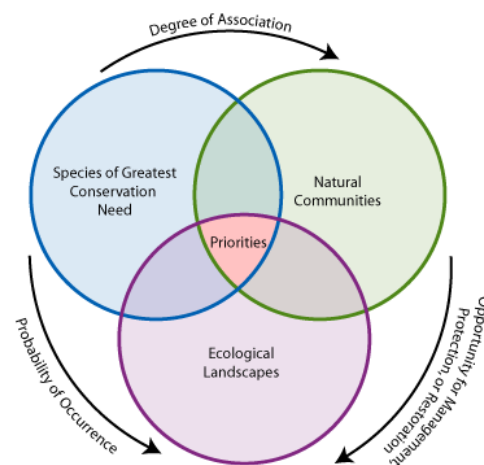


Figure 3.1. Illustration of the process used to identify Ecological Priorities in the Wisconsin Wildlife Action Plan.

detailed information specific to the Northwest Sands Ecological Landscape and these properties, including lists of species and the habitats with which they are associated, please see the Wildlife Action Plan and the appendices in the property-specific Rapid Ecological Assessments (O' Connor, Staffen, & Staffen, 2018).

Rare Animals

Wisconsin's Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) Working List includes those species that are listed either at the Federal or State level. As of November 2009, NHI documented 89 rare species fauna within the Northwest Sands Ecological Landscape including four mammals, 28 birds, seven herptiles, six fishes, and 44 invertebrates. These include two U.S. Endangered species, four Wisconsin Endangered species, 11 Wisconsin Threatened species, and 74 Wisconsin Special Concern species.

Rare Plants

The rare plant database of WDNR's Natural Heritage Inventory contains records for 46 vascular plant species occurring within the Northwest Sands Ecological Landscape that are currently listed as Endangered (four), Threatened (nine), or Special Concern (33) by the State of Wisconsin.

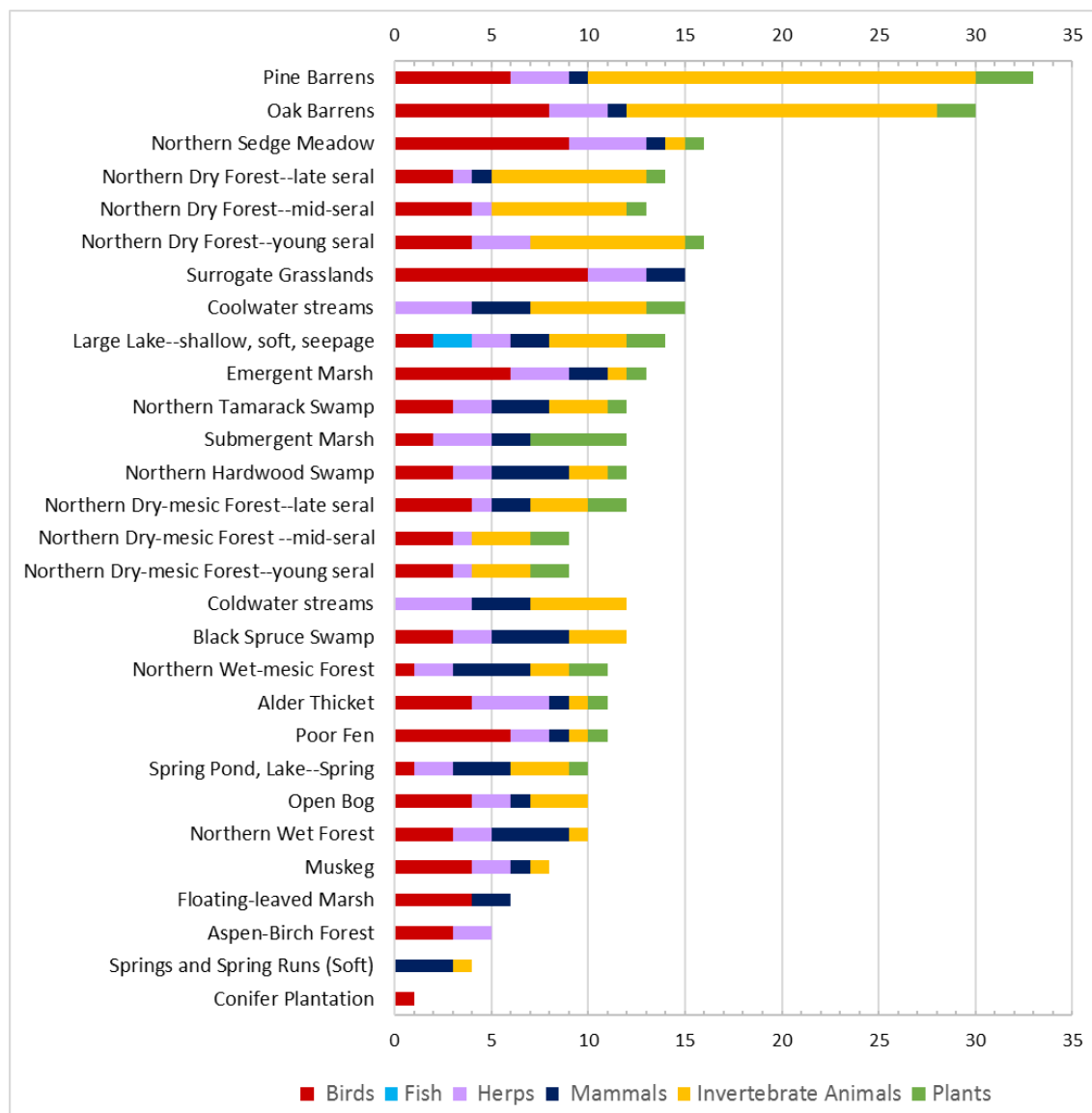


Figure 3.2. Number of SGCN and Rare Plants Highly or Moderately Associated with Natural Communities that have High or Moderate Opportunities for Protection, Restoration or Management in the Northwest Sands Ecological Landscape. Teams of species and natural community experts and professionals assigned association scores to each species and natural community combination and opportunity scores to each natural community and ecological landscape combination. Each combination was ranked by team participants as high, moderate, low or none.

PRIORITY SPECIES MANAGEMENT PLANS

Two priority species have distinct management objectives and population recovery activities for them, developed outside this planning process: the federally endangered Karner blue butterfly and sharp-tailed grouse.

Karner Blue Butterfly

Karner blue butterfly populations have been tracked through annual surveys in this region since 2008. Populations have been low but persistent. The goal for Karner blue butterfly (KBB) recovery in the area is to establish and maintain a large viable population (>6,000 KBB) to meet federal delisting criteria for the KBB Recovery Plan (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2003). The objective is to restore and maintain suitable occupied habitat across the landscape to support the needed large viable population, using accepted barrens restoration practices. The KBB depends on wild lupine as its host plant, and significant populations of both butterfly and plant exist on properties such as Crex Meadows and Fish Lake wildlife areas. DNR is a partner in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Habitat Conservation Plan for KBB. Under this agreement, DNR is adopting certain management restrictions within the KBB range, including on some DNR properties.



Wisconsin Sharp-tailed Grouse: A Comprehensive Management and Conservation Strategy (1953-2011)

Sharp-tailed grouse Populations have been declining since 1998, according to the Wisconsin Sharp-tailed Grouse Survey and Status (WDNR, 2015b) and are well below historic levels. In 2013, 24% fewer dancing males were observed than the 2008-2012 average. Management of oak/pine barrens habitat for sharp-tailed grouse is critical for the species to continue to exist in the region.

The 1953 Wisconsin Prairie Grouse Management Policy was a noteworthy historical agreement “that every reasonable effort be made to maintain a huntable population through management and restoration of habitat for these birds in the state and to assure their presence for future generations.” This was to ensure all other pine/oak barren wildlife species, much of them game species, would be properly managed.

The goal of the 2011 Wisconsin management plan for sharp-tailed grouse is “to ensure a viable population of sharp-tailed grouse within the state that also provides opportunities for regulated harvest.” The plan is “to accomplish this goal by focusing our management and research efforts on the existing core range of sharp-tailed grouse in northern Wisconsin.” The vision is to develop and facilitate a voluntary and cooperative partnership among public and private organizations to ensure the long-term viability of sharp-tailed grouse populations in Wisconsin through an ecological landscape and conservation area or focus area approach. The core sharp-tailed grouse population occurs within the Northwest Sands.

Grassland Bird Habitat Management

Namekagon and Douglas County Wildlife Areas contain barrens which are among the highest-ranking priority landscapes for grassland bird management (Sample & Mossman, 1997).

ECOLOGICALLY IMPORTANT SITES

Primary Sites: Site-specific Opportunities for Biodiversity Conservation

“Primary Sites” encompass the best examples of rare and representative natural communities and include documented rare species populations with opportunities for restoration or connections. They are identified during the Rapid Ecological Assessment (REA) process and included in REA reports, specifically prepared by the department

for special consideration during the master planning process. Primary Sites warrant high protection and/or restoration. All Primary Sites are considered High Conservation Value Forests for purposes of Forest Certification.

REAs also help summarize projects that collected biological inventory information about DNR properties. They document and help evaluate potential habitat for rare species and identify natural community management opportunities. The planning team considered the REAs and the primary sites they identified when planning management for the properties of the Northwest Sands.

REA reports are accessible to the public via the department's webpage. See the Rapid Ecological Assessment for the Northwest Sands Ecological Landscape (WDNR 2018).

ADDITIONAL REGIONAL & PROPERTY ATTRIBUTES

Additional large-scale research and planning efforts that identify significant ecological attributes or designations are described in this section.

Land Legacy Report

The Land Legacy Report (Pohlman, Bartlet , Hanson III, Scott, & Thompson, 2006) was designed to identify Wisconsin's most important conservation and recreation needs for the next 50 years. The following "Legacy Places" received the highest ranking (five stars), A five star rating indicates restoration and conservation actions are likely to succeed.

- Bois Brule River
- Crex Meadows Wildlife Area
- Danbury to Sterling Corridor
- Namekagon-Brule Barrens
- Namekagon River
- St. Croix River

Wisconsin Wildlife Action Plan: Conservation Opportunity Areas

The Wisconsin Wildlife Action Plan (WDNR 2015) identifies Conservation Opportunity Areas (COA) in Wisconsin that contain ecological features, natural communities, and/or Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) habitat for which Wisconsin has a unique responsibility for protecting, when viewed from the global, continental, upper Midwest, or state perspective. The COAs in this landscape include:

- **The Pine-Oak Barrens COA: global significance** because few examples of barrens ecosystems remain worldwide. Large-scale barrens management opportunities exist in this landscape due to the relatively large amount of public lands owned by state and county government.
- **Douglas and Bayfield County Barrens COA: global significance** and one of the best areas nationwide to manage for globally rare pine barrens and associated species like sharp-tailed grouse, upland sandpiper, and Connecticut warbler.
- **Blueberry Swamp COA: statewide significance**; it encompasses the Brule Spillway as well as Blueberry Swamp and is notable for supporting some of the most extensive and high-quality wetlands in the state, such as white-cedar swamps and hardwood swamps, along with associated rare species and highly regarded trout streams.



- **Brule Boreal Forest COA:** with its remnant stands of Boreal Forest, this COA of **continental significance** encompasses the most extensive restoration opportunities for clay plain Boreal Forest on public land in the state, and possibly North America. It also includes extensive undeveloped tracts of Lake Superior shoreline and the Brule River mouth, a small freshwater estuary supporting large concentrations of migratory birds.

Important Bird Area

At least six Important Bird Areas (Steele, 2007) in this landscape are critical sites for the conservation and management of Wisconsin's birds. These are all located on properties with existing NR 44 master plans within this (2018) Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan.

Outstanding and Exceptional Resource Waters (ORW and ERW)

These officially designated waters (ch. NR 102.11 Wis. Admin. Code) provide outstanding recreational opportunities, support valuable fish and wildlife habitat, are not significantly impacted by human activities, and are recognized as being the highest quality waters in the state. ORWs comprise less than 1% of over 15,000 rivers, lakes, and waterbodies in WI; they typically do not have any point sources discharging pollutants directly to the water (for instance, no industrial sources or municipal sewage treatment plants) and no increases of pollutant levels are allowed (WDNR, 2016b). If a waterbody has existing point sources at the time of designation, it is more likely to be designated as an ERW. Examples include:

Outstanding Resource Waters (ORW)

- Totogatic River (Totogatic Wild River Area) {also named one of Wisconsin's five designated "wild rivers"}
- The Bois Brule River State Forest has numerous streams and several lakes designated Outstanding and Exceptional Resource Waters (WDNR 2016)
- Beaver Brook
- Namekagon River
- Clam River - upper and north Fork segments

Exceptional Resource Waters (ERW)

- Clam River - lower segment
- Arnold Creek, Bacon Creek, and other small tributaries of the St. Croix River
- Portions of Bean Brook and Little Bean Brook

Wetland Gem Designation

The Wisconsin Wetlands Association identifies 10 high-quality sites in the Northwest Sands as "Wetland Gems" in its publication, Wisconsin Wetland Gems (Wisconsin Wetland Association, 2018). The 'gems' on DNR properties are:

- Black Lake Bog
- Blomberg Lake
- Brule Glacial Spillway
- Crex Meadows
- Fish Lake Meadow



- St. Croix & Namekagon River Corridor

The 2000 Northwest Sands Landscape Level Management Plan, prepared by the Northwest Regional Planning Commission and Wisconsin DNR, includes the Northwest Barrens properties. Strengths identified within this landscape are the large public land base, including state and county-owned properties and numerous options for habitat management of Pine and Oak Barrens. Opportunities include:

- Connecting properties to enhance landscape-scale management that benefits numerous rare species
- Creating a greater diversity of common and game species
- A high concentration of State Natural Areas
- Providing large wildlife habitat areas attracting wildlife viewers
- Increasing potential for ecological research sites

Connecting Upland Activities to Protection of Groundwater and Surface Waters

The Northwest Sands Properties and surrounding lands drain to four of the highest quality rivers in northwest Wisconsin and in the state: the St. Croix and Namekagon rivers (both federally designated Wild and Scenic Rivers), the Totogatic River (one of five state-designated Wild Rivers), and the Bois Brule River. There are also numerous high-quality lakes, wetlands, and streams fed by the water moving over and through this landscape. The water quality of these surface waters and the health of the organisms they support is dependent on both the quantity and quality of the groundwater recharging them and the runoff that enters them over land. It is likely that the many acres of sand providing filtration have helped protect and enhance the quality of these surface waters over past centuries.

The sandy soils in the area can transmit precipitation to the groundwater rapidly. Any pollutants or contaminants that contact the ground surface can affect groundwater quality directly, and surface water quality indirectly. Careful land management to prevent migration of materials applied to the land (fertilizers, pesticides, etc.) is important to prevent seepage to groundwater or runoff to surface water. Safe transport and storage of materials that could be considered contaminants (in either groundwater or surface water) is also important on and around these properties.

RECREATION CONSIDERATIONS

Outdoor recreation in the Northwest Sands is diverse. From camping and hiking to ATV riding and hunting, residents and visitors take part in a wide variety of activities. Extensive investigation into the recreation needs and opportunities of the public are recorded in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) and Recreation Opportunity Analysis (ROA). The information from the SCORP and ROA used in the planning for the properties is noted in the Recreation Resources and Opportunities of the Northwest Sands section of this chapter. In considering recreational opportunities the planning team considered a number of factors, including:

- Existing regional opportunities on department and other public lands.
- Public use priorities as identified by previous reports and public comments
- Ecological capabilities of individual properties to support recreational activities.

Additional Public Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Lands in the Northwest Sands

This planning process is intended for Wisconsin DNR owned properties. However, to properly examine the true scope of recreation activities in the Northwest Sands, department lands were considered in the context of recreational

opportunity on other public lands. Thus, this planning effort considered available opportunity on lands open to the public that are not owned by DNR when addressing recreational challenges and opportunities in the Northwest Sands. Prominent public conservation lands in the NWS, outside this planning effort, help serve the public's recreational needs and include:

State Trails in Northwest Sands Ecological Landscape

The following state trails are managed for public recreational use. State trails are managed by their respective counties of origin, through a partnership agreement with the DNR Parks and Recreation program.

- Gandy Dancer State Trail Douglas, Burnett and Polk counties
- Wild Rivers State Trail Douglas, Washburn and Barron counties

Water Trails in Northwest Sands Ecological Landscape

Water trails in Wisconsin provide a network of access points, resting places and attractions for users of water craft on lakes and rivers. Those in the NWS include:

- Totogatic Wild River
- Saint Croix National Scenic Riverway
- Namekagon River
- Bois Brule River

Conservation Easements in the Northwest Sands Ecological Landscape

Conservation easements are typically small and do not have their own section in a master plan. However, in the Northwest Sands Ecological Landscape, there is a significant working forest conservation easement (~73,000 ac) that merits recognition. Wisconsin Stewardship Fund resources were used by the department, together with efforts by the nonprofit The Conservation Fund and others to protect this region for sustainable managed forest interests and to allow continued public recreation.

Brule-St. Croix Legacy Forest Wisconsin DNR purchased this easement from the Lyme Timber Company in two major transactions, to protect inholdings in Wisconsin's Brule-St. Croix Legacy Forest. This is a significant easement which consists of 72,957 acres and protects them for managed forestry interests and to allow public recreation. The easement includes language that promotes a portion of the forested component to be managed in a rolling barrens application. Public recreation access is managed by the Lyme Timber Company.

County Properties in Northwest Sands Ecological Landscape

County-owned lands within the NWS Ecological Landscape provide significant opportunities for public recreation that are complementary to state-owned (DNR) lands. Prominent examples of these public resources include:

- Bayfield County Forestry and Parks
- Douglas County Forestry, Parks and Recreation
- Burnett County Forests and Parks
- Washburn Country Forestry



Federal Properties in Northwest Sands Ecological Landscape

Federal forest and park lands offer opportunities for public recreation. In the NWS region, these properties include:

- North Country National Scenic Trail, managed by National Park Service
- St. Croix National Scenic Riverway, managed by National Park Service

Chapter 4 : Analysis of Impacts

INTRODUCTION

This analysis discloses the positive and negative environmental impacts of the management actions recommended in this master plan to decision-makers and the public. The focus is primarily on new uses or management proposed in the plan. The proposed management for the properties of the Northwest Sands region in this master plan is anticipated to have many net beneficial environmental effects and is not anticipated to cause significant adverse environmental impacts.

IMPACTS TO NATURAL RESOURCES

Soils

Impacts to soils resulting from the management actions in this plan are expected to be minimal. Construction activities related to the development of new parking areas, logging access or water access points have the greatest potential to cause erosion. These activities will be minimal for the properties in this master plan. The use of construction best management practices (BMPs), as required in department guidelines, will limit the potential for erosion. Other management will continue to encourage native vegetative cover which may enhance soil health and reduce erosion potential.

Soil erosion during timber harvesting operations on department properties will be minimized by the use of BMPs for water quality, as required in department guidelines. BMPs contain strict standards for road construction, water crossings, skid trails and logging landings. All trails and primitive roads are monitored for signs of excessive soil erosion caused by management activities or recreational use. Actions may be taken to minimize the erosion potential.

Geological Resources and Landforms

One of the functions of this plan is to protect important geological resources, such as the wetlands formed by lacustrine clays in the otherwise highly drained sandy soils of the region. The actions proposed in this plan will not have a detrimental effect on these resources and may in fact enhance them.

Air Quality

Potential impacts to air quality are anticipated to come primarily from prescribed burns, a widely used management tool in this landscape. Prescribed burns may occur seasonally (typically spring and fall). Burn plans are developed before prescribed burns are used on department properties and contain best management practices and procedures to safely manage the fire, including measures to minimize nuisance smoke. Local landowners and units of government will be notified prior to prescribed burns.

Vehicle emissions generated by motor vehicles and motorized equipment used in management activities, such as timber harvesting, will be minimal. Vehicle emissions from management activities are anticipated to be less than that from traffic on adjacent roadways.

Water Quality of Surface Waters and Wetlands

Maintaining permanent vegetative cover and the application of BMPs during management activities will have an overall positive impact on both surface waters and wetlands. The impacts of stormwater runoff during timber



harvesting will be mitigated by implementing appropriate best management practices. These practices are described in the “Wisconsin’s Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality” field manual and are part of every timber harvest in the region.

Impervious surfaces, which prevent stormwater infiltration and increase runoff, are minimal in the region and are not anticipated to substantially increase as this plan is implemented. Pervious road and pathway surfaces may be used where impervious surfaces are not needed for road or parking area construction. Any new boat launches developed may have areas of impervious surface, which may result in modest increases in runoff.

Many of the properties in this plan contain ponds, lakes or streams. The management for these properties is intended to enhance the aquatic habitat of these water resources. This is accomplished through uplands management and some instream techniques. Particularly in the coldwater trout streams, instream habitat work, such as placing lunger structures, beaver removal or minor stream dredging, may temporarily impact the local environment. Impacts will be minimal and standard department practices ensure any impacts are mitigated. These practices should result in long-term gains in water quality and aquatic habitat.

Vegetation

Vegetation management strategies in this plan are intended to maintain or improve the quality of native and restored habitats. This plan’s primary objectives include maintenance and enhancement of mixed deciduous and native conifer forests, with some areas of older forest, maintaining forested stream corridors and wetland floras, and enhancing barrens vegetation where possible.

Most of the planned changes to the composition and structure of habitats or communities will occur slowly over the next 50 years, minimizing short-term impacts. Most habitat conversion will be governed by natural succession processes, further minimizing impacts. DNR policies addressing the monitoring, inspection and control of invasive species will be followed. Control measures may include mechanical control, use of herbicides, and fire. Active management of any vegetation will follow established department practices. Descriptions of these practices can be found in the Common Elements for Habitats and their Management found on the DNR Property Planning website.

Wildlife and Fisheries

The actions proposed in this master plan are anticipated to have positive impacts on resident and migratory wildlife. Habitat management activities will enhance the quality and extent of habitat for wildlife, particularly those that favor barrens or young to middle aged forests. Barrens are highly limited in other parts of Wisconsin and the United States in general. Management described in this plan maintains and protects the abundant, high quality wetlands which provide significant and important habitat for a variety of wetland-dependent species including herptiles, invertebrates, and certain species of birds. Many of these wetland-dependent species are rare.

The waterways of the region, particularly coldwater streams, many of which are Class I or II trout streams, will also be enhanced by this plan. The management objectives and prescriptions outlined in Chapter Two will create or maintain the diverse forest, wetland, shrub, and aquatic habitats needed by the game and non-game wildlife and fish populations found on Northwest Sands properties.

Endangered, Threatened and Rare Species, Native Communities and Scarce Ecological Resources

The proposed management objectives and prescriptions are expected to cause few, if any, negative impacts to endangered, threatened and rare species while yielding medium to long-term benefits. Protection, maintenance, or enhancement of the important native communities and unique habitats on the Northwest Sands properties will continue to provide benefits to a wide range of rare, threatened or endangered resident and migratory species.

Chapter 4: Analysis of Impacts

Inch Lake, Lampson Moraine Pines, and Jones Lake State Natural Areas are existing SNAs covered in this plan. One new SNA, encompassing a portion of Beaver Brook Wildlife Area is proposed. These areas protect and perpetuate some of the best examples of Wisconsin's natural communities, including rare species. The management objectives and prescriptions in this plan further these protections.

Visual/Scenic Resources

Management of Northwest Sands properties proposed in this plan will enhance the aesthetics of the properties. Management focused on maintaining or enhancing the natural character and native ecology of the region is anticipated to enhance an already aesthetically pleasing landscape. Management activities such as prescribed burns or timber harvests may temporarily impact visual quality of a property. These impacts will be limited to the short-term however as the management is anticipated to increase the natural character of the area thereby enhancing aesthetics.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS

Timber Products

Timber production, as part of sustainable forest management, is an important management tool for meeting plan objectives, but it is a secondary purpose of these properties. While not a primary goal, timber production has value and provides multiple benefits, including employment in forest-based industries, revenues for property management, and habitat improvement. Commercial timber harvests are anticipated to continue as an integral part of management on the Northwest Sands properties.

Transportation

Traffic on public highways due to proposed management activities are not expected to change from the current, minimal, level.

Noise

Noise impacts from proposed management activities are anticipated to be minimal on property neighbors and users. Noise impacts that may occur are anticipated to be generated primarily from land management, forestry, construction and maintenance activities. Such noise will be generated by chainsaws, skidders, machinery, and trucks. These noises will occur primarily during daylight hours and are likely to be peak (high level, short duration) rather than continuous in nature. The noise will often be seasonal and transient: once the activity is completed the noise source will be eliminated.

Public Safety

Management of Northwest Sands properties, as described in this plan, is anticipated to have minimal negative effects on public safety. Designated use areas, such as parking areas and trails, are inspected semi-annually to locate and remove hazardous trees and other potential impediments to public safety. Department safety procedures are followed when using herbicides, pesticides, fire, and in other property management activities.

Land Use

The proposed plan mostly continues overall conditions and management strategies that have been in place on the properties. Therefore, minimal impacts on land use are anticipated. Slight changes may occur due to parking area installation at several properties.



Degree of Controversy

Little to no controversy is anticipated to result from effects on the quality of the human environment due to implementation of this plan. The human environment is expected to improve through enhancements to environmental quality and increased recreational options as this plan is implemented. Public interest in land use, particularly as it relates to recreational options on several department properties has been present, but it has generated little to no controversy. The increased recreational options, mainly mountain biking, are to occur in established recreational corridors, off existing trails. This is anticipated to limit potential user group conflicts.

ECONOMIC EFFECTS AND THEIR SIGNIFICANCE

Implementation of the proposed plan is not anticipated to generate any significant economic impact. Forest management on department properties within the region contributes to the local logging industry. Timber harvests that occur will contribute to the supply of wood products and add to the regional economy through wages for laborers in the field, and in primary and secondary forest products industries.

Tourism and related industries may benefit slightly from implementation of this plan as people are drawn to department properties for the access to natural resources. Hunting and fishing, particularly trout fishing, opportunities are abundant in this region. Continued enhancement of the resources on the properties in this plan may modestly increase the draw of non-resident hunters and anglers to the Northwest Sands properties, resulting in modest gains for local businesses serving these pursuits.

Fiscal Effects on Local Government

This plan is not anticipated to generate any change in the fiscal effects on local government expenses or revenues. State law requires the department to make payments in lieu of property taxes (PILT) to ensure the affected town's property base is not adversely affected. There are two separate state statutes, and several formulas under each, that dictate the amount of these payments.

- Wisconsin Statute 70.113 applies to land acquired by the department prior to January 1, 1992. Payments under this statute are made directly to the taxation district in which the land is located.
- Wisconsin Statute 70.114 governs PILT for all lands purchased by the department after January 1, 1992. This law has been amended several times so the specific formula used to determine individual payments varies depending on when the property was acquired and how it was acquired.

The department uses an automated process for collecting information and calculating PILT payments. The process is determined by statute with little room for interpretation or calculation by the department. For further details, please refer to the applicable state statutes or visit the department web site at <http://dnr.wi.gov/> and perform a search for "Payment in Lieu of Taxes".

IMPACTS ON ENERGY CONSUMPTION

Due to the limited amount of infrastructure development and renovation proposed, no significant impacts to energy consumption are expected.

CUMULATIVE EFFECTS, RISK AND PRECEDENT

Significance of Cumulative Effects

Overall, proposed actions are anticipated to have positive long-term effects on the quality of the natural environment and recreational users. Over time, management to protect and enhance the quality of local streams and wetlands, barrens habitat, and to continue sustainable forest management will have positive impacts. The continuation of recreational offerings, and modest increases in some activities, are anticipated to have positive social effects with minimal effect on resources.

SIGNIFICANCE OF RISK

Management of the Northwest Sands properties poses a low overall potential for risk to the environment. Proposed habitat management activities are similar to those used over the last several decades and these activities typically have less negative and more positive environmental impact than surrounding residential and agricultural land uses.

Only a small percentage of the total Northwest Sands property acreage will be actively managed (e.g., timber harvesting or prescribed burns) in any given year. No new, high-risk actions are proposed, nor are any actions which involve an irretrievable commitment of resources, or actions that could not be reversed in the future. The presence of motor vehicles and other equipment during construction and logging may pose a slight but insignificant risk from spills and erosion. These risks would be mitigated by best management practice requirements and at preconstruction meetings with contractors.

Fire has been identified as one of the most effective vegetative management tools for management of grasslands and some wetlands and forests. It is commonly used in the Northwest Sands. Necessary precautions and DNR procedures are always followed during prescribed burns, including having an approved burn plan and adequate fire-fighting equipment and personnel present on site. During periods of high fire danger, burning restrictions are put into effect and a complete burning ban may be implemented. Herbicide/pesticide use will strictly follow label instructions to protect the environment and public safety.

SIGNIFICANCE OF PRECEDENT

Approval of this regional master plan will not substantially influence future decisions on other department property master plans. Properties listed in Table 1.1 and Table A.1 as having NR 44-compliant plans are incorporated into this plan. It is the department's intent to plan all properties in a region concurrently, therefore, those previously written master plans incorporated in this regional plan will be placed on the same update cycle as this plan. This may delay future decisions on those properties, though the option for a plan variance or amendment under NR 44 will still exist of any necessary plan changes.

Implementation of the management actions contained in this master plan are not thought to be precedent-setting. Proposed land management, development, and recreational activities have largely been conducted on DNR properties in the past. All development of recreational or other facilities will follow existing department design guidelines.

ADDITIONAL IMPACTS

Additional, generalized, impacts from recreational activities and the development and maintenance of facilities associated with them can be found in the Recreation Facilities and their Management Common Elements. These documents can be accessed via the department's Property Planning website.

WEPA COMPLIANCE

Property Planning under NR 44 is an equivalent analysis action under 150.20(2) (a) 1 and therefore complies with the Wisconsin Environmental Policy Act (WEPA) §1.11 and NR 150.

Chapter 5 : Analysis of Alternatives

This chapter describes the alternatives and anticipated impacts of alternatives *considered but not selected* during the development of this master plan.

LAND MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES

Overall land management for the Northwest Sands master plan will remain largely unchanged. No new resource management objectives (alternative management purposes) were identified for consideration in the planning process.

During the planning process the planning team evaluated the assessment data and determined the most appropriate actions for protecting and perpetuating high-value resources and general habitats, and recreational environments. The proposed master plan maintains the overall current resource management focus on each property and provides additional protection or enhancement of high-value natural resources. The planning team did not consider any significant land management alternatives.

PUBLIC USE ALTERNATIVES

Mountain Bike Trail Development Beaver Brook Wildlife Area

The department was asked to consider allowing use of mountain bikes on the Beaver Brook Wildlife Area. Beaver Brook Wildlife Area is a popular property just two miles south of the City of Spooner, the main population center of the Northwest Sands. Beaver Brook Wildlife Area's primary objective is to provide quality habitat for fish and wildlife. Background data gathered by the department suggests the property is highly successful in doing so. The property is home to many wildlife species, both game and non-game, including some rare species. The property's namesake stream, Beaver Brook, is itself a Class I trout stream.

While the primary recreational offerings of Beaver Brook Wildlife Area are fishing, hunting, trapping and other general public access activities, the department does allow groomed cross-country ski trails. These trails are maintained by the local ski club and can only be groomed after the conclusion of hunting seasons in January. They do not substantively impact the primary uses of the property.

Mountain biking is an activity that takes place throughout the year, especially during the warm summer months, which raises several concerns for conflict with the primary goals of this property. During the summer months, soils are not frozen and there is an increased risk of erosion from trails. Increased erosion may negatively impact the water resources of the area, particularly the Class I trout stream. Mountain bike trail use also has potential to impact wildlife especially during the nesting and young rearing season for many game and non-game species. (Quinn & Chernoff, 2010).

Due to the potential for negative impacts to the primary goals of the property, the department chose to not authorize development of mountain bikes trails within Beaver Brook Wildlife Area. However, the Wild River State Trail is authorized for multiple uses, including mountain biking, and managed by Washburn County is adjacent to much of Beaver Brook Wildlife Area. The Wild Rivers State Trail also allows ATV and UTV use, which has potential to cause safety concerns if both mountain bikes and ATVs are using the trails heavily. To mitigate this issue, the department has worked with Washburn County and is proposing the development of mountain bike trails within the Wild River State Trail corridor, off the developed trail bed and outside of the Beaver Brook Wildlife Area. This trail



will be allowed to enter the wildlife area briefly to avoid impediments to trail construction. Mountain bikes and ATV/UTVs will share the connector trail through the wildlife area to access the more extensive trail network in Washburn County Forest.

Chapter 6 : Summary of Public Involvement Process and Input Received

Public input is welcome throughout the master planning process but is solicited by the planning team in two distinct processes. The first, during the plan's scoping phase, seeks public input regarding use of the properties of the region. This first public involvement phase helps the planning team understand the public's use of the properties and aids in setting the scope of the plan. The second process takes place following the department's release of the draft regional master plan. Both public input processes were guided by the Public Participation Plan for the Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan.

INITIAL PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

Following initiation of the planning process for the Northwest Sands, public input was welcomed to aid in the scoping process. Public input regarding the planning of properties in the Northwest Sands Ecological Landscape was open from March 27 – May 3, 2018. The purpose of the initial public involvement phase is to notify the public regarding the department's intent to plan for properties in the region and to identify management and use issues to be evaluated during the planning process.

Public input processes for the Superior Coastal Plain and Northwest Lowlands regional master plans occurred concurrently with the Northwest Sands. Two open houses were held for people to comment on properties in any of the three landscapes. The public meetings were held in two locations: the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center in Ashland and the DNR Service Center in Spooner. The public meetings were held April 24 and 25, 2018.

The public open houses were held for the three concurrent planning processes. The comments summarized in this section are those that relate to the Northwest Sands. Additional comments received are included in Chapter 6 of the regional master plan they pertain to.

In general, respondents indicated a high level of interest in invasive species management, native community management, game species management, fish habitat conservation, and rare species conservation. Other comments emphasized barrens management, wild rice beds, and interest in access to public lands of all kinds. Comments related to recreation primarily focused on mountain biking, cross-country skiing, and the wild and scenic rivers of the region.

PUBLIC INPUT REGARDING THE NORTHWEST SANDS DRAFT REGIONAL MASTER PLAN

The Northwest Sands Draft Regional Master Plan was released for public review on December 6, 2019. A press release was posted to the department website and distributed to media in Ashland, Bayfield, Douglas, Burnett, Washburn and surrounding counties. The news release was also sent to the email distribution list, which contains over 4,600 subscribers. The public meeting was advertised at the Spooner DNR Service Center and at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center. Several local media outlets also ran stories regarding the opportunity to give public input.

The draft plan was posted to the Northwest Sands master planning webpage. Individual sections of the plan were also available for download. The department provided an interactive map for the public to view the properties in the context of the ecological landscape, read a brief description of the plan, and access property-specific sections of the plan. The whole draft regional plan was downloaded a total of 48 times. Chapter Two, the chapter containing the property plans, was individually downloaded an additional 36 times.



Chapter 6: Summary of Public Involvement Process and Input Received

Public meetings were held December 17 and 18, 2019 at the DNR Spooner Service Center and the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center in Ashland respectively. Six members of the public attended the Spooner meeting and 13 attended the Ashland meeting. A total of seven hard-copy public input forms were received between the two meetings. The online public input form garnered 19 responses.

Public input on the Northwest Sands Draft Regional Master Plan carried several major themes, which are addressed here.

Beaver Brook Wildlife Area Mountain Bike Trail

Prior to the scoping phase of this master planning process, the department was aware of public interest in a possible mountain bike trail through Beaver Brook Wildlife Area to connect with the Wildcat Mountain Bike Trail in the nearby Washburn County Forest. This issue was again raised during the scoping process. During the planning process, DNR evaluated this request and found it incompatible with the goals and capabilities of Beaver Brook Wildlife Area. After consultation with Washburn County and the local bike club, an alternative option was proposed in the draft plan. The plan proposes a single-track mountain bike trail be developed within the adjacent Wild Rivers State Trail corridor, which is approximately 100 feet wide. In areas where sustainable trail design and construction is not feasible within the trail corridor, the proposed master plan authorizes short stretches of trail to be built no more than approximately 75 feet into Beaver Brook Wildlife Area.

The mountain bike trail within the corridor is proposed to end at an established one-mile connector trail linking the Wild Rivers State Trail with the Washburn County Forest. The connector trail is primarily used by ATVs, but bicycling is also allowed. The trail connects to an area of the Washburn County Forest containing both mountain bike and ATV/UTV trails. A number of commenters requested a mountain bike trail across Beaver Brook Wildlife Area to the Wildcat trail system. Under the proposed plan, the existing connector trail, which is open to both bikes and ATVs, would continue to serve as the mountain bike trail across Beaver Brook Wildlife Area to connect to the Washburn County Forest.

The department considers this existing connector trail to be the most viable route across the wildlife area. The connector trail is within the proposed Wetland Mitigation Special Management Area. This management area encompasses a former cranberry bog that was jointly purchased by DNR and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (DOT). DOT maintains a wetland mitigation bank site on the property, over which the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has jurisdiction. The proposed plan offers the maximum protection of wetlands, for which DOT receives mitigation credits, while allowing a connection across the property to the Wildcat Mountain Bike Trail System. Given the multiple layers of jurisdiction, topography, and sensitive resources surrounding the existing connector trail, the department does not believe a separate, bicycling only trail across Beaver Brook Wildlife Area is sustainable or feasible.

Namekagon Barrens Project Boundary Expansion

Interest was expressed for expanding the project boundary of Namekagon Barrens Wildlife Area with the goal to restore and preserve the oak/pine barrens habitat which provides vital support for the regional population of sharp-tailed grouse. While DNR recognizes the importance of managing barrens habitat for wildlife, especially in this region, we prefer at this time to coordinate and partner with the neighboring landowners such as Burnett County, rather than pursue a project boundary expansion.



State Natural Areas

Several comments were received regarding existing and proposed State Natural Areas in the Northwest Sands. The proposed Beaver Brook and Forest State Natural Area within Beaver Brook Wildlife Area was highly supported by those commenting. Management proposed for Inch Lake State Natural Area was largely supported by commenters; especially regarding maintenance of Inch Lake as an undeveloped lake.

Four Wheel Drive Vehicle Slow Speed Trails

Several requests were received through the online public input form for slow-speed four-wheel drive (4WD) vehicle trails. While developing the draft regional master plan, recreational options for each property were assessed. At this time, the department is not recommending four-wheel drive slow speed trails be included on the properties with management described in the Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan. Previously planned northern state forests do offer four-wheel driving experiences on forest roads open to public vehicle use.

North Country National Scenic Trail

The North Country National Scenic Trail crosses several department properties in the Northwest Sands all of which have been previously planned. During the public input period on the Northwest Sands it was brought to the department's attention that a property acquired as a Statewide Scattered Acquisition Authority Property (SSAAP) was purchased for and intended for use by the North Country National Scenic Trail. The property, classified as a Scattered Forest Lands property and proposed to be redesignated as Town of Gordon State Habitat Area, is currently under the administrative responsibility of the Bureau of Wildlife Management.

A potential change in the designation and administrative ownership of the parcel, to Town of Gordon State North Country Trail Area under the administrative ownership of the Bureau of Parks and Recreation Management, was assessed, as the North Country Trail is a state trail, and all state trails are part of the state park system. The department found this proposal would limit the goal of providing hunting opportunities in the region. Wisconsin Act 168, passed in 2012 and commonly referred to as the "Sporting Heritage Bill," opened Wisconsin State Park lands to hunting, fishing and trapping. These lands include state North Country Trail areas and have different time periods during which hunting is allowed than other state properties. To ensure the public's ability to traditionally hunt the property is fully realized, this proposed plan keeps the administrative owner of the property as Bureau of Wildlife Management under the name Town of Gordon State Habitat Area. The proposed plan also authorizes North Country Trail construction on the property. In the future, the property may be considered for redesignation to a property type under the administrative responsibility of the Wisconsin State Park System that does allow year around hunting, such as a State Recreation Area, to allow for closer alignment with the purpose for which the property was purchased (North Country Trail).

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Appendix A : Properties of the Northwest Sands and their Locations

Properties included in this, and other, master plans for properties within the Northwest Sands Ecological Landscape planning region are under a variety of administrative property designations. Table A.1 is the listing of all properties and their administrative designations included in this plan. Table A.1 also defines the NR 44-plan in which management for the property is written. All properties in Table A.1 will have NR 44-compliant plans and be included in subsequent updates of this Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan upon approval of this plan.

Table A.1. Properties of the Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan

		Maps in Property Planning Viewer				
Property	NR 44-Compliant Plan**	DNR and Other Lands Map	Recreation Infrastructure Map	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
Amsterdam Sloughs Wildlife Area	Glacial Lake Grantsburg Properties Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
Bardon L-Whitefish Public Access	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
Barnes Ranger Station	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
Bass Lake State Public Access	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
Bean Brook Fishery Area	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification



Appendix A: Properties of the Northwest Sands

		Maps in Property Planning Viewer				
Property	NR 44-Compliant Plan**	DNR and Other Lands Map	Recreation Infrastructure Map	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
Bean Brook Fishery Area	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
Beartrack Lake State Public Access*	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
Beaver Brook Wildlife Area	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
Big Doctor Lake State Public Access*	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
Big Sand Lake State Public Access*	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
Brule River State Forest	Brule River State Forest Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
Brule Tower Site	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	Closed Easement- does not appear in DNR Property Planning Viewer				
Clam Lake - Cumberland Point State Public Access*	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification



Appendix A: Properties of the Northwest Sands

		Maps in Property Planning Viewer				
Property	NR 44-Compliant Plan**	DNR and Other Lands Map	Recreation Infrastructure Map	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
Clam Lake Wildlife Area	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
Clam River Fishery Area	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
Clam River State Habitat Area	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
Crex Meadows Wildlife Area	Glacial Lake Grantsburg Properties Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
Culbertson Springs Fishery Area	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
Douglas County Wildlife Area	Northwest Barrens Properties Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
Ernie Swift Youth Camp	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	Closed Easement- does not appear in DNR Property Planning Viewer				
Fish Lake Wildlife Area	Glacial Lake Grantsburg Properties Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification



Appendix A: Properties of the Northwest Sands

		Maps in Property Planning Viewer				
Property	NR 44-Compliant Plan**	DNR and Other Lands Map	Recreation Infrastructure Map	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
Flat Creek Wildlife Area	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
Goose Lake State Habitat Area*	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
Gov. Tommy G. Thompson Hatchery	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
Governor Knowles State Forest	Governor Knowles State Forest Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
Green Lake State Habitat Area*	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
Green Lake State Public Access*	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
Hayward Lake State Public Access*	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
Hayward Nursery	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification



Appendix A: Properties of the Northwest Sands

		Maps in Property Planning Viewer				
Property	NR 44-Compliant Plan**	DNR and Other Lands Map	Recreation Infrastructure Map	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
Inch Lake State Natural Area	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
Jones Lake State Natural Area	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
Lampson Moraine Pines State Natural Area	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
Leader Lake State Public Access*	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
Long Lake State Public Access*	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
Mackey Creek Fishery Area	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
McDermott Brook Fishery Area	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
McKenzie Creek Fishery Area	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification



Appendix A: Properties of the Northwest Sands

			Maps in Property Planning Viewer				
Property	NR 44-Compliant Plan**		DNR and Other Lands Map	Recreation Infrastructure Map	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
McKinley Lake State Public Access*	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan		DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
Namekagon Barrens Wildlife Area	Northwest Barrens Properties Master Plan	North	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
		South	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
Namekagon River - Trails End Road State Public Access*	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan		DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
Namekagon River - Trego Lake State Public Access*	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan		DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
Namekagon River Fishery Area	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan		DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
Namekagon River State Habitat Area*	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan		DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
Pear Lake Public Access	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan		DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification



Appendix A: Properties of the Northwest Sands

		Maps in Property Planning Viewer				
Property	NR 44-Compliant Plan**	DNR and Other Lands Map	Recreation Infrastructure Map	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
Person Lake Fishery Area	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
Sand Lake State Habitat Area*	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
Shell Creek Fishery Area	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
Sissabagama Lake State Public Access*	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
Spooner Lake State Habitat Area*	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
Spooner Lake State Public Access*	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
Spring Creek Fishery Area	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
State Owned Islands - Bayfield County - Half Moon Lake - Star Island*	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification



Appendix A: Properties of the Northwest Sands

		Maps in Property Planning Viewer				
Property	NR 44-Compliant Plan**	DNR and Other Lands Map	Recreation Infrastructure Map	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
State Owned Islands - Bayfield County - Lake Millicent - Francis Island*	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Bashaw Lake - Island No. 1*	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Birch Island Lake - Burnt Island*	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Clam Lake - Island No. 1*	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Conners Lake - Island No. 1*	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Elbow Lake - Island No. 1*	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification



Appendix A: Properties of the Northwest Sands

		Maps in Property Planning Viewer				
Property	NR 44-Compliant Plan**	DNR and Other Lands Map	Recreation Infrastructure Map	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Goose Lake - Island No. 1*	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Green Lake - Island No. 1*	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Green Lake - Island No. 2*	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Green Lake - Island No. 3*	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Green Lake - Island No. 6*	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Johnson Lake - Island No. 2*	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification



Appendix A: Properties of the Northwest Sands

		Maps in Property Planning Viewer				
Property	NR 44-Compliant Plan**	DNR and Other Lands Map	Recreation Infrastructure Map	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Johnson Lake - Island No. 3*	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Johnson Lake - Island No. 4*	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Johnson Lake - Island No. 5*	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Lang Lake - Island No. 1*	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Long Lake - Island No. 1*	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Long Lake - Island No. 2*	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification



Appendix A: Properties of the Northwest Sands

		Maps in Property Planning Viewer				
Property	NR 44-Compliant Plan**	DNR and Other Lands Map	Recreation Infrastructure Map	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Mud Lake - Island No. 1*	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Myre Lake - Island No. 1*	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Oak Lake - Island No. 1*	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Point Lake - Island No. 4*	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Point Lake - Island No. 5*	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Tomoe Lake - Island No. 1*	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification



Appendix A: Properties of the Northwest Sands

		Maps in Property Planning Viewer				
Property	NR 44-Compliant Plan**	DNR and Other Lands Map	Recreation Infrastructure Map	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Webb Lake - Island No. 1*	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Wood Lake - Island No. 1*	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Wood Lake - Island No. 2*	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Wood Lake - Island No. 3*	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Wood Lake - Island No. 4*	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Wood Lake - Island No. 5	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification



Appendix A: Properties of the Northwest Sands

		Maps in Property Planning Viewer				
Property	NR 44-Compliant Plan**	DNR and Other Lands Map	Recreation Infrastructure Map	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Wood Lake - Island No. 6*	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
State Owned Islands - Douglas County - Murray Lake - Island No. 1*	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
State Owned Islands - Douglas County - Muskrat Lake - Island No. 1*	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
State Owned Islands - Sawyer County - Sissabagama Lake – Cowhorn*	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
State Owned Islands - Sawyer County - Sissabagama Lake - Island No. 1*	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
State Owned Islands - Sawyer County - Sissabagama Lake - Island No. 2*	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification



Appendix A: Properties of the Northwest Sands

		Maps in Property Planning Viewer				
Property	NR 44-Compliant Plan**	DNR and Other Lands Map	Recreation Infrastructure Map	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
State Owned Islands - Sawyer County - Sissabagama Lake – Sunnyside*	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
State Owned Islands - Washburn County - Cable Lake - Island No. 1*	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
State Owned Islands - Washburn County - Dock Lake - Island No. 1*	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
State Owned Islands - Washburn County - Dock Lake - Island No. 2*	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
State Owned Islands - Washburn County - Ellsworth Lake - Island No. 1*	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
State Owned Islands - Washburn County - Island Lake - Half Moon*	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification



Appendix A: Properties of the Northwest Sands

		Maps in Property Planning Viewer				
Property	NR 44-Compliant Plan**	DNR and Other Lands Map	Recreation Infrastructure Map	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
State Owned Islands - Washburn County - Lake Nancy - Island No. 1*	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
State Owned Islands - Washburn County - Lower Kimball Lake - Island No. 1*	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
State Owned Islands - Washburn County - Oak Lake - Island No. 1*	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
Totogatic Wild River	Northwest Barrens Properties Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
Town of Gordon State Habitat Area*	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
Tozer State Spring Ponds*	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
Truck Lake State Habitat Area*	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification



Appendix A: Properties of the Northwest Sands

		Maps in Property Planning Viewer				
Property	NR 44-Compliant Plan**	DNR and Other Lands Map	Recreation Infrastructure Map	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
Uhrenholdt Memorial Timber Demonstration Forest	Uhrenholdt Memorial Timber Demonstration Forest Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
Upper Ox Creek State Public Access*	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
Upper Twin Lake State Habitat Area*	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
Viola Lake State Public Access*	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
Whalen Creek Fishery Area	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
Yellow Lake State Habitat Area*	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
Yellow River - Conners Bridge State Public Access*	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification
Yellow River - Highway 35 State Public Access*	Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan	DNR & Other Lands	Existing Recreation	Roads	Land Cover	Land Management Classification



Appendix A: Properties of the Northwest Sands

*Proposed Name – See Table B.2 for existing name.

**Properties with NR 44-Compliant plans listed as anything other than Northwest Sands Regional Master Plan have been previously planned. The master plan for these properties is incorporated into this regional plan. These plans are accessible via the DNR Property Planning website.

***Note: Certain named lands shown on DNR maps are composed entirely of easements. These lands are not listed in this table as they do not require master plans because DNR does not manage them. These lands are noted as easement areas in the Property Planning Viewer.



Appendix B: Real Estate Action Item Tables

Table B.1. Overview of the Real Estate Recommendations for the Northwest Sands Ecological Landscape

Property Name (Acquisition Authority)	Fee Title Acres (Statewide)	Easement Acres (Statewide)	Existing Project Boundary (Acres)	Proposed Project Boundary (Acres)	Changes in Project Boundary (Acres)	Existing Acquisition Goal (Acres)	Proposed Acquisition Goal (Acres)	Changes in Acquisition Goal (Acres)	Existing Percent Complete	Parcel Redesignations	Proposed Land Sale (Acres)
AMSTERDAM SLOUGHS WILDLIFE AREA	5,053.28	0.00	5,483.06	5,483.06	0.00	5,483.00	5,480.50	-2.50	92%	-2.50	
BARDON L-WHITEFISH L PUBLIC ACC	1.60	0.00	NA	NA	NA	1.60	1.60	0.00	100%		
BARNES RANGER STATION	9.67	0.00	NA	NA	NA	9.67	9.67	0.00	100%		
BEAN BROOK FISHERY AREA	1,584.71	48.54	3,017.84	4,347.31	1,329.47	1,501.54	4,339.51	2,837.97	106%	62.17	
BEAVER BROOK WILDLIFE AREA	1,944.78	1.83	2,240.14	2,733.41	493.26	2,124.59	2,733.41	608.82	92%		
BIG BROOK FISHERY AREA**	12.30	50.70	352.39	352.39	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	12%	11.00	
BRULE RIVER STATE FOREST	47,461.86	1.83	83,893.42	83,933.24	39.81	82,650.00	82,662.50	12.50	57%	12.50	
BRULE TOWER SITE	0.00	1.00	NA	NA	NA	1.00	0.00	-1.00	0%		
CLAM LAKE WILDLIFE AREA	261.20	0.00	292.91	1,138.50	845.60	264.87	1,138.50	873.63	99%	10.32	
CLAM RIVER FISHERY AREA	2,557.82	13.35	4,168.10	5,495.71	1,327.61	2,821.46	5,495.71	2,674.25	91%		
CREX MEADOWS WILDLIFE AREA	29,349.38	0.00	32,455.08	32,455.08	0.00	32,397.00	32,397.00	0.00	91%		
CULBERTSON SPRINGS FISHERY AREA	40.00	13.35	45.77	45.77	0.00	43.50	43.50	0.00	92%		
DOUGLAS COUNTY WILDLIFE AREA	993.89	4.00	4,126.23	4,126.23	0.00	4,126.00	4,126.00	0.00	24%		
ERNIE SWIFT YOUTH CAMP	94.46	0.00	NA	NA	NA	94.46	94.46	0.00	100%		
FISH LAKE WILDLIFE AREA	13,443.01	0.00	14,074.79	14,074.79	0.00	14,075.00	14,075.00	0.00	96%	-0.18	
FLAT CREEK WILDLIFE AREA	372.59	0.00	370.62	370.62	0.00	372.59	370.62	-1.97	100%		
GOV. TOMMY G. THOMPSON HATCHERY	102.55	0.04	NA	NA	NA	105.67	105.67	0.00	97%		
GOVERNOR KNOWLES STATE FOREST	21,084.38	76.97	47,591.84	47,591.84	0.00	30,175.00	30,190.57	15.57	70%	0.18	
HAYWARD NURSERY	135.78	1.29	NA	NA	NA	120.06	135.78	15.72	113%		
MACKEY CREEK FISHERY AREA	0.00	8.17	11.37	0.00	-11.37	9.67	0.00	-9.67	0%	-8.17	
MCDERMOTT BROOK FISHERY AREA	143.00	7.85	144.74	161.49	16.74	97.00	143.00	46.00	147%	1.03	
MCKENZIE CREEK FISHERY AREA	120.00	27.00	149.79	230.29	80.50	107.00	200.00	93.00	112%	80.00	
NAMEKAGON BARRENS WILDLIFE AREA	6,423.69	0.00	9,359.85	9,359.85	0.00	9,287.00	9,287.00	0.00	69%		
NAMEKAGON RIVER FISHERY AREA	0.00	84.02	111.90	111.90	0.00	84.02	84.02	0.00	0%	-11.00	
NAMEKAGON RIVER PUBLIC ACCESS	0.00	11.50	NA	NA	NA	11.50	0.00	-11.50	0%	-11.50	
PEAR LAKE PUBLIC ACCESS	0.00	0.40	NA	NA	NA	0.40	0.40	0.00	0%		
PERSON LAKE FISHERY AREA	9.64	0.00	NA	NA	NA	9.64	9.64	0.00	100%		
REM-BIG SISSABAGAMA LAKE	1.21	0.00	NA	NA	NA	0.00	0*	-1.21	>100%	-1.21	
REM-CLAM LAKE	10.32	0.00	NA	NA	NA	0.00	0*	-10.32	>100%	-10.32	
REM-CLAM RIVER	8.00	0.00	NA	NA	NA	0.00	0*	-8.00	>100%	-8.00	
REM-CRYSTAL LAKE	0.00	96.35	NA	NA	NA	0.00	0.00	0.00	0%	-96.35	
REM-MCDERMOTT CREEK	0.00	1.03	NA	NA	NA	0.00	0.00	0.00	0%	-1.03	



Appendix B: Real Estate Action Tables

Property Name (Acquisition Authority)	Fee Title Acres (Statewide)	Easement Acres (Statewide)	Existing Project Boundary (Acres)	Proposed Project Boundary (Acres)	Changes in Project Boundary (Acres)	Existing Acquisition Goal (Acres)	Proposed Acquisition Goal (Acres)	Changes in Acquisition Goal (Acres)	Existing Percent Complete	Parcel Redesignations	Proposed Land Sale (Acres)
REM-NAMEKAGON RIVER	141.72	0.00	NA	NA	NA	0.00	0*	-141.72	>100%	-141.72	
REM-SAND LAKE	41.40	0.00	NA	NA	NA	0.00	0*	-41.40	>100%	-41.40	
REM-SPOONER LAKE	64.50	0.00	NA	NA	NA	0.00	0*	-64.50	>100%	-64.50	
REM-YELLOW RIVER	2.00	0.00	NA	NA	NA	0.00	0*	-2.00	>100%	-2.00	
SHELL CREEK FISHERY AREA	0.00	22.34	24.08	24.08	0.00	22.34	22.34	0.00	0%		
SPRING CREEK FISHERY AREA	72.73	0.00	73.31	73.31	0.00	72.73	72.73	0.00	100%		
TOTOGATIC WILD RIVER	2,465.70	2.00	2,522.76	2,522.76	0.00	2,489.72	2,489.72	0.00	99%		
UHRENHOLDT MEM TIMBER DEMO FOREST	122.32	0.00	123.39	123.39	0.00	123.02	123.02	0.00	99%		
WHALEN CREEK FISHERY AREA	184.05	7.27	199.30	204.10	4.80	188.32	188.32	0.00	98%	3.00	
FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM	0.00	267,327.96	NA	NA	NA	112,876.00	112,876.00	0.00	0%		
LUP GRANTS	311.42	0.00	NA	NA	NA	311.42	177.77	-133.65	100%	-133.65	
SCATTERED FOREST LANDS	6,245.60	22.53	NA	NA	NA	5,352.11	5,257.17	-94.94	117%	-94.94	
STATE OWNED ISLANDS	1,849.97	0.00	NA	NA	NA	1,180.99	1,180.99	0.00	157%		
STATEWIDE HABITAT AREAS	7,194.51	838.08	NA	NA	NA	8,976.12	8,578.64	-397.48	80%	-397.48	
STATEWIDE NATURAL AREA	29,393.52	5,911.54	NA	NA	NA	41,110.50	41,110.50	0.00	71%		
INCH LAKE STATE NATURAL AREA	NA	NA	629.61	629.61	0.00	NA	NA	NA	NA		
JONES LAKE STATE NATURAL AREA	NA	NA	7.15	7.15	0.00	NA	NA	NA	NA		
LAMPSON MORaine PINES	NA	NA	191.73	191.73	0.00	NA	NA	NA	NA		
STATEWIDE PUBLIC ACCESS	1,188.98	34.58	NA	NA	NA	768.72	907.32	138.60	155%	135.06	0.95
STATEWIDE SPRING PONDS	2,184.47	15.49	NA	NA	NA	3,026.30	2,879.80	-146.50	72%	-146.50	
STREAM BANK EASEMENT PROGRAM	0.00	3,012.74	NA	NA	NA	21,075.00	21,075.00	0.00	0%		
HABITAT AREA	18.07	0.00	NA	NA	NA	5,184.33	5,945.17	760.84	0%	857.19	

* The acquisition goal for these properties will first be established to match the current Fee Title Ownership. The acquisition goal will then be transferred to another acquisition authority leaving the current acquisition authority's acquisition goal at 0 acres.

**Big Brook Fishery Area is not being actively planned with the Northwest Sands Ecological Landscape. It is included in this table in order to display a redesignation from Namekagon Fishery Area to Big Brook Fishery Area



Appendix B: Real Estate Action Tables

Table B.2. Scattered Department Property Naming Summary Table for the Northwest Sands Ecological Landscape

Proposed Name	Existing Acquisition Authority/Name	Existing Administrative Owner	Proposed Administrative Owner	Proposed Redesignation (If Changed)	Acreage	County	Map Reference	Fee/Easement
Bass Lake State Public Access	Statewide Habitat Areas	Fish	Fish	Statewide Public Access	16.25	Burnett	BR	Fee
Bean Brook Fishery Area	Statewide Spring Ponds	Fish	Fish	Bean Brook Fishery Area	54.00	Washburn	B	Fee
Beartrack Lake State Public Access	Statewide Public Access	Fish	Fish		24.30	Burnett	BV	Fee
Big Doctor Lake State Public Access	Amsterdam Sloughs Wildlife Area	Wildlife	Fish	Statewide Public Access	2.50	Burnett	AA	Fee
Big Sand Lake State Public Access	Statewide Public Access	Fish	Fish		3.29	Burnett	BW	Fee
Brule River State Forest	Statewide Spring Ponds	Fish	Forestry	Brule River State Forest	12.50	Multiple	CH	Fee
Brule St. Croix Legacy Forest	Forest Legacy Program	Forestry	Forestry		76,193.21	Douglas	AB	Easement
Clam Lake - Cumberland Point State Public Access	Statewide Public Access	Fish	Fish		20.20	Burnett	BX	Fee
Clam Lake Wildlife Area	REM-Clam Lake	Fish	Wildlife	Clam Lake Wildlife Area	10.32	Burnett	F	Fee
Clam River State Habitat Area	REM-Clam River	Fish	Fish	Habitat Area	8.00	Burnett	AF	Fee
Crystal Lake State Habitat Area	REM-Crystal Lake	Fish	Fish	Habitat Area	96.35	Douglas	AG	Easement
Ernie Swift Youth Camp	Ernie Swift Youth Camp	Other	Parks		94.46	Washburn		Fee
Goose Lake State Habitat Area	LUP Grants	Wildlife	Wildlife	Habitat Area	133.65	Burnett	AC	Fee
Green Lake State Habitat Area	Statewide Habitat Areas	Fish	Fish	Habitat Area	2.40	Burnett	BS	Fee
Green Lake State Public Access	Statewide Public Access	Fish	Fish		2.00	Burnett	BY	Fee
Hayward Lake State Public Access	Statewide Public Access	Fish	Fish		0.40	Sawyer	BZ	Easement
Leader Lake State Public Access	Statewide Habitat Areas	Fish	Fish	Statewide Public Access	72.50	Burnett	BT	Fee
Long Lake State Public Access	Statewide Public Access	Fish	Fish		0.50	Burnett	CA	Fee
McDermott Brook Fishery Area	REM-McDermott Creek	Fish	Fish	McDermott Brook Fishery Area	1.03	Sawyer	J	Easement
McKenzie Creek Fishery Area	Statewide Spring Ponds	Fish	Fish	McKenzie Creek Fishery Area	80.00	Washburn	K	Fee
McKinley Lake State Public Access	Statewide Public Access	Fish	Fish		4.50	Washburn	CB	Fee
Namekagon River - Trails End Road State Public Access	REM-Namekagon River	Fish	Fish	Statewide Public Access	33.05	Washburn	AI	Fee
Namekagon River - Trego Lake State Public Access	Namekagon River Public Access	Fish	Fish	Statewide Public Access	11.50	Washburn	AD	Easement
Namekagon River State Habitat Area	REM-Namekagon River	Fish	Fish	Habitat Area	108.67	Washburn	AJ	Fee
Sand Lake State Habitat Area	REM-Sand Lake	Fish	Fish	Habitat Area	41.40	Burnett	AK	Fee
Sissabagama Lake State Public Access	REM-Big Sissabagama Lake	Fish	Fish	Statewide Public Access	1.21	Sawyer	AE	Fee
Spooner Lake State Habitat Area	Statewide Public Access	Fish	Fish	Habitat Area	0.95	Washburn	CC	Fee
	REM-Spooner Lake	Fish			64.50			Fee
Spooner Lake State Public Access	Statewide Public Access	Fish	Fish		1.00	Washburn	CD	Fee
State Owned Islands - Bayfield County - Half Moon Lake - Star Island	State Owned Islands	Forestry	Forestry		0.15	Bayfield	AP	Fee
State Owned Islands - Bayfield County - Lake Millicent - Francis Island	State Owned Islands	Forestry	Forestry		0.10	Bayfield	AQ	Fee
State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Bashaw Lake - Island No. 1	State Owned Islands	Forestry	Forestry		0.70	Burnett	AR	Fee
State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Birch Island Lake - Burnt Island	State Owned Islands	Forestry	Forestry		12.00	Burnett	AS	Fee
State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Clam Lake - Island No. 1	State Owned Islands	Forestry	Forestry		18.00	Burnett	F	Fee
State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Conners Lake - Island No. 1	State Owned Islands	Forestry	Forestry		0.60	Burnett	AT	Fee



Appendix B: Real Estate Action Tables

Proposed Name	Existing Acquisition Authority/Name	Existing Administrative Owner	Proposed Administrative Owner	Proposed Redesignation (If Changed)	Acreage	County	Map Reference	Fee/Easement
State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Elbow Lake - Island No. 1	State Owned Islands	Forestry	Forestry		1.30	Burnett	AU	Fee
State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Goose Lake - Island No. 1	State Owned Islands	Forestry	Forestry		0.40	Burnett	AV	Fee
State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Green Lake - Island No. 1	State Owned Islands	Forestry	Forestry		1.60	Burnett	AW	Fee
State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Green Lake - Island No. 2	State Owned Islands	Forestry	Forestry		1.70	Burnett	AW	Fee
State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Green Lake - Island No. 3	State Owned Islands	Forestry	Forestry		1.30	Burnett	AW	Fee
State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Green Lake - Island No. 6	State Owned Islands	Forestry	Forestry		0.12	Burnett	AW	Fee
State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Johnson Lake - Island No. 2	State Owned Islands	Forestry	Forestry		0.25	Burnett	AX	Fee
State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Johnson Lake - Island No. 3	State Owned Islands	Forestry	Forestry		1.60	Burnett	AX	Fee
State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Johnson Lake - Island No. 4	State Owned Islands	Forestry	Forestry		0.08	Burnett	AX	Fee
State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Johnson Lake - Island No. 5	State Owned Islands	Forestry	Forestry		0.40	Burnett	AX	Fee
State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Lang Lake - Island No. 1	State Owned Islands	Forestry	Forestry		0.70	Burnett	AY	Fee
State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Long Lake - Island No. 1	State Owned Islands	Forestry	Forestry		0.70	Burnett	AZ	Fee
State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Long Lake - Island No. 2	State Owned Islands	Forestry	Forestry		0.30	Burnett	AZ	Fee
State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Mud Lake - Island No. 1	State Owned Islands	Forestry	Forestry		6.00	Burnett	BA	Fee
State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Myre Lake - Island No. 1	State Owned Islands	Forestry	Forestry		0.60	Burnett	BB	Fee
State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Oak Lake - Island No. 1	State Owned Islands	Forestry	Forestry		16.50	Burnett	BC	Fee
State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Point Lake - Island No. 4	State Owned Islands	Forestry	Forestry		0.55	Burnett	BD	Fee
State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Point Lake - Island No. 5	State Owned Islands	Forestry	Forestry		0.40	Burnett	BD	Fee
State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Tomoe Lake - Island No. 1	State Owned Islands	Forestry	Forestry		0.70	Burnett	BE	Fee
State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Webb Lake - Island No. 1	State Owned Islands	Forestry	Forestry		0.45	Burnett	BF	Fee
State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Wood Lake - Island No. 1	State Owned Islands	Forestry	Forestry		0.20	Burnett	BG	Fee
State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Wood Lake - Island No. 2	State Owned Islands	Forestry	Forestry		1.40	Burnett	BG	Fee
State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Wood Lake - Island No. 3	State Owned Islands	Forestry	Forestry		2.00	Burnett	BG	Fee
State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Wood Lake - Island No. 4	State Owned Islands	Forestry	Forestry		0.90	Burnett	BG	Fee
State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Wood Lake - Island No. 5	State Owned Islands	Forestry	Forestry		0.50	Burnett	BG	Fee
State Owned Islands - Burnett County - Wood Lake - Island No. 6	State Owned Islands	Forestry	Forestry		0.40	Burnett	BG	Fee
State Owned Islands - Douglas County - Murray Lake - Island No. 1	State Owned Islands	Forestry	Forestry		0.40	Douglas	BH	Fee
State Owned Islands - Douglas County - Muskrat Lake - Island No. 1	State Owned Islands	Forestry	Forestry		0.15	Douglas	BI	Fee
State Owned Islands - Sawyer County - Sissabagama Lake - Cowhorn	State Owned Islands	Forestry	Forestry		0.60	Douglas	BJ	Fee
State Owned Islands - Sawyer County - Sissabagama Lake - Island No. 1	State Owned Islands	Forestry	Forestry		0.40	Douglas	BJ	Fee
State Owned Islands - Sawyer County - Sissabagama Lake - Island No. 2	State Owned Islands	Forestry	Forestry		0.80	Douglas	BJ	Fee
State Owned Islands - Sawyer County - Sissabagama Lake - Sunnyside	State Owned Islands	Forestry	Forestry		1.80	Douglas	BJ	Fee
State Owned Islands - Washburn County - Cable Lake - Island No. 1	State Owned Islands	Forestry	Forestry		0.15	Douglas	BK	Fee
State Owned Islands - Washburn County - Dock Lake - Island No. 1	State Owned Islands	Forestry	Forestry		0.60	Washburn	BL	Fee
State Owned Islands - Washburn County - Dock Lake - Island No. 2	State Owned Islands	Forestry	Forestry		0.40	Washburn	BL	Fee
State Owned Islands - Washburn County - Ellsworth Lake - Island No. 1	State Owned Islands	Forestry	Forestry		0.50	Washburn	BM	Fee
State Owned Islands - Washburn County - Island Lake - Half Moon	State Owned Islands	Forestry	Forestry		2.10	Washburn	BN	Fee



Appendix B: Real Estate Action Tables

Proposed Name	Existing Acquisition Authority/Name	Existing Administrative Owner	Proposed Administrative Owner	Proposed Redesignation (If Changed)	Acreage	County	Map Reference	Fee/Easement
State Owned Islands - Washburn County - Lake Nancy - Island No. 1	State Owned Islands	Forestry	Forestry		41.00	Washburn	BO	Fee
State Owned Islands - Washburn County - Lower Kimball Lake - Island No. 1	State Owned Islands	Forestry	Forestry		1.00	Washburn	BP	Fee
State Owned Islands - Washburn County - Oak Lake - Island No. 1	State Owned Islands	Forestry	Forestry		0.50	Washburn	BQ	Fee
Town of Gordon State Habitat Area	Scattered Forest Lands	Wildlife	Wildlife	Habitat Area	20.00	Douglas	AM	Fee
Tozer State Spring Ponds	Statewide Spring Ponds	Fish	Fish		30.80	Washburn	CI	Fee
	Statewide Spring Ponds	Fish			0.50			Easement
Truck Lake State Habitat Area	Scattered Forest Lands	Wildlife	Wildlife	Habitat Area	39.54	Burnett	AN	Fee
Upper Ox Creek State Public Access	Statewide Public Access	Fish	Fish		0.76	Douglas	CE	Easement
Upper Twin Lake State Habitat Area	Scattered Forest Lands	Wildlife	Wildlife	Habitat Area	35.40	Burnett	AO	Fee
Viola Lake State Public Access	Statewide Public Access	Fish	Fish		1.40	Burnett	CF	Fee
Whalen Creek Fishery Area	Statewide Public Access	Fish	Fish	Whalen Creek Fishery Area	3.00	Washburn	N	Fee
Yellow Lake State Habitat Area	Statewide Habitat Areas	Fish	Fish	Habitat Area	306.33	Burnett	BU	Fee
Yellow River - Conners Bridge State Public Access	REM-Yellow River	Fish	Fish	Statewide Public Access	2.00	Burnett	AL	Fee
Yellow River - Highway 35 State Public Access	Statewide Public Access	Fish	Fish		0.41	Burnett	CG	Fee

